

January 28, 2013

To Co-Chairs and Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

My name is Joseph Boniface, I am an Aerospace Engineer and I live in East Granby, CT. I am also a law-abiding firearm owner. It is the right of every citizen in Connecticut according to Article I section 15: "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state." I understand and feel for the victims and the families/community members of Newtown. However, I feel the legislation that is being brought to the task force is hastened and inappropriate for the resolution we all desire. I am pleased to see the quick response to recent event; however in light of the investigation having not been properly concluded it seems incongruous to attempt to make legislation without knowing the full details. The problems we are having do not have an easy answer and I entreat you to further examine my reasons for believing so as follows:

In order to stop the violence in schools and other public arenas the answer is NOT to take away our rights and privileges as hard-working, truehearted Americans. The people who are committing these crimes are not of the same caliber of men as those of us who practice safe handling of firearms. We are the ones who not only follow the written laws of firearm legislation, but the unwritten practices of human decency and respect. The men (and women) who disregard these laws are the ones who need to be targeted.

If stricter gun laws were the answer, than statistics would show fewer acts of gun violence in states and cities that observed these laws. However, it has proven time and again in New York City, NY: Newark and Camden, NJ; Chicago, IL; and Los Angeles, CA that these laws are ineffective and meaningless. These are the cities that suffer the worst from gun violence.

Middle class and lower income families are the ones who suffer the greatest loss in that they cannot afford to follow the steps necessary to obtain and maintain a firearm in the house for protection. Criminals acquire firearms through any and all illegal means. I am afraid that the laws that are being considered are going to be the downfall of our community rather than the answer to our problems. Taking away a citizen's right to own and operate a firearm opens him or her to threatening situations if they are to come to the unfortunate circumstances of being harassed by criminals. Why punish those of us who follow the letter of the law and are the very reason you are in office?

Thank you for your time and consideration in this manner. I appreciate you regarding my concerns and hope that I have helped you to deliberate further in your attempts to protect this community. Please take my words in the deepest sincerity.

Respectfully,

Joseph Boniface