

I am a father of four, grandfather, of twelve, a recreational shooter, and a concealed carry permit holder. I would start by expressing my sympathy and sadness to the people of Sandy Hook. What happened there is beyond belief and cannot be explained at any level. That being said I have to say that none of the proposed legislation that is currently being submitted would have prevented this atrocity. Violation of the second amendment aside please consider the fact that this was committed by a young person that had psychological issues and still had access to a weapon. The current laws dictate that a firearm must be stored safely and securely. Had this been done he would not have access to the weapons. I don't think that the average recreational shooter needs a high capacity magazine though many purists would disagree with me. I do however believe that a magazine that is supplied with a firearm by the manufacturer should not be branded as illegal as it would make instant criminals out of law abiding citizens. If the law chooses to make my name and address public because I am a concealed carry permit holder it won't make anyone safer or prevent another atrocity or crime from being committed. Forcing people to carry liability insurance won't prevent a crime. Inordinate taxing of ammunition won't stop anyone who is intent on committing a crime with a firearm. Limiting how much ammunition a person may purchase does not achieve anything except forcing anyone with ill intentions to go to a store multiple times. We have been bombarded with statistics following the atrocity at Sandy Hook such as how many people have succumbed to gun violence since that day. How many have been killed over multiple years, but one statistic has been absent, how many of these were committed with illegally obtained guns. The current raft of proposed legislation will do nothing to prevent violence. I would like to add that most of our current problems are caused by the fact that the core values of society have been eroded by much of the legislation passed over many years (Making burning of our precious flag a freedom of speech as an example). We need to approach this problem long before the violence occurs. Make parents responsible for their children's actions once again. Society has to begin to respect one another. It is not the responsibility of government to instill good sound values in our youth or to provide our youth with an alternative activity to violence. That is the responsibility of the parents. One thing that would do more than additional gun legislation would be to identify those that could potentially hurt themselves or others. Proposing legislation and providing funding that would allow us to identify those who need help and give them meaningful help would be more valuable than passing useless legislation that will only affect law abiding citizens. Limiting or confiscation of all types of weaponry be it a firearm or pocket-knife will not solve the problem.

Joseph Bracale  
North Haven