

1/28/13

To the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group - Task Force Members,

My name is Judy Aron and I live in the Greater Hartford area. I am here today to tell you that I oppose all legislation that has been proposed to punish law abiding permit holders and gun owners in CT. What happened in Newtown truly was horrific, but every gun owner in CT did not pull the trigger that was pulled by Adam Lanza. Why, therefore are we to be punished for his crimes?

This committee has no specific bill for us to speak to today, but scores of bills containing language which would limit the number of bullets in a standard magazine clip, force us to buy liability insurance, limit ammunition purchases, heavily tax gun related items, make public the list of permit holders, create more restrictions and ban certain guns will only punish innocent citizens. They will not stop or prevent this type of crime from happening again. Adam Lanza already broke many laws that we have in place, so how will making more laws be any guarantee or deterrent that this will never happen again? It won't.

Look at the recent response by New York Sheriffs with regard to the recently passed laws in New York State (<http://gunssavelives.net/blog/new-york-sheriffs-respond-to-new-yorks-latest-gun-control-laws/>) : They stated, " **Assault weapon ban and definition of assault weapons.** We believe that the new definition of assault weapons is too broad, and prevents the possession of many weapons that are legitimately used for hunting, target shooting and self defense. Classifying firearms as assault weapons because of one arbitrary feature effectively deprives people the right to possess firearms which have never before been designated as assault weapons. We are convinced that only law abiding gun owners will be affected by these new provisions, while criminals will still have and use whatever weapons they want." They also stated, "**Reduction of ammunition magazine capacity.** The new law enacts reductions in the maximum capacity of gun magazines. We believe based on our years of law enforcement experience that this will not reduce gun violence. The new law will unfairly limit the ability of law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms in New York. It bears repeating that it is our belief that the reduction of magazine capacity will not make New Yorkers or our communities safer. "

I want to tell you that last year during the October ice storm that wiped out electricity for a week in my town, our town sent out robo call alerts letting us know that we had two criminals on the loose, a murderer and a robber. I was relieved to know that I had the means at home in the dark to defend myself if I needed to. The laws that are being proposed will not allow me such piece of mind. I may remind you that criminals do not obey the laws that you pass.

I also want to say that some of these proposed laws will hurt low income citizens, many of which already live in crime ridden neighborhoods. Should you decide to heavily tax guns and ammunition, how will poor people be able to defend themselves in their own homes?

Lastly and most importantly, I had family members that were murdered at the hands of the Nazis. They were disarmed and led to concentration camps by their government, and this was in a country known for its culture, education and enlightenment. They did not dream that their country would do that to them. My lesson from them was and always has been "Never Again". I

owe it to those that perished in the ovens to make sure that my right to bear arms is **NOT** infringed, and I believe that this should be your aim as well. I believe that all of the hastily put together anti-gun legislation that we have seen thus far is both an act to look like people are "doing something" about the Newtown tragedy and also a means of using Newtown to seize upon an opportunity for citizen disarmament advocates to place infringements on our rights to bear arms. You must not allow that to happen.

Thank you for your consideration,
Judy Aron
West Hartford