

Gun violence task force,

My name is Justin Albert, I live in Coventry, and I firmly believe in my second amendment right. I have spent countless hours researching thousands of facts, statistics, and true stories related to firearms. In my findings I have only reassured my belief that gun control is certainly not the answer. As I began to write this letter of testimony to you I rattled off stats and facts to rebuttle the 50+ proposed bills. More than half way through my letter I stopped and hit delete. I have come to realize that the anti gun side of the argument is largely based on pure emotion. Most of which is due to misguided and or false information. This caused me to step back and reflect on what firearms mean to me.

While in Boy Scouts, I was taught at a young age how to safely handle and fire a rifle. It was part of my right of passage from transforming from a boy to a man. I can remember feeling a sense of maturity flowing through me. I realized with this great power in my hands comes even greater responsibility. Today this still rings true. I truly believe that since my introduction to firearms I have become a better person by keeping on the straight and narrow through hunting and sport shooting, respecting the large responsibility that comes hand and hand with gun ownership, and eventually realizing it has always been in my nature to be a "sheepdog." Now that I am older, looking forward to starting a family, and in the midst of buying my first home. I realize more than ever that the protection of me and my loved ones against criminals who are ready and willing to harm will be solely up to me. I do not have a personal armed guard by my side 24/7 to keep me safe. And its asinine to think that the police will be there in that exact moment of need. I have taken it upon myself to train hard, often, and diligently with firearms to uphold my standing as a law abiding, responsible gun owner. I take pride in my firearm safety from my know how to my secure gun safe in my home.

I cant help but think about the old saying "fight fire with fire." This will be impossible with all these proposed bills. I, as a law abiding citizen will reluctantly obey any new restrictive laws while the very criminals I must protect myself against will do as the criminal does, and break the law by illegally purchasing anything he can get his hands on. This leaves me in a vulnerable situation. The criminal now has the upper hand through superior firepower. Essentially all of these emotionally driven bans and regulations will only disarm those who respect and obey the law. Take note from our current drug problem in this country. Anyone in this room can pick drugs up right off the street. Its silly to think that these proposals will end or even hinder access to these items on the streets. I urge you all to look at these proposals logically and decide if you truly believe this is the answer to our problem.

Thank you for your time,

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