

Senator Looney, Rep. Miner and Members of the Task Force Committee:

My name is Ken Swain, I live in Sandy Hook. Three of the slain children shared the same bus stop that once was my children's bus stop. I believe this tragedy was entirely preventable under the 1994 assault weapons ban that was deplorably allowed to expire in 2004.

I am urging you today, to pass the stronger and clearly necessary legislative proposals submitted by Connecticut Against Gun Violence. We need to protect our children, our population and our police. Some weapons should only be in the hands of the trained military, not the general public.

The AR15 is a military weapon, says Four Star General McChrystal (decorated former commander of our Forces in Afghanistan). Its ammo is designed to be particularly devastating to the human body, and it should not be in civilian hands. Asked what can be done, the General replied. "We have to look at legislation...we need to look at everything we can do to safeguard our people." "We need to take a very mature look at that."

Police chiefs across America agree, they don't want to be out-gunned by AR15 weaponry either. Mayors are asking for sensible weapons restrictions to help protect their citizens, as IS this community.

But as a nation, we are still being bullied by the NRA / NSSF pathetic (*sic*) insistence that our Founding Fathers actually wanted us *all* to be armed with "military-style" weapons so that we could be prepared to defend ourselves at home, at the mall, at the theatre and at school.

In fact, the NRA stance is that we have no choice *but* to arm ourselves against the "bad guys" With the underlying premise that our police and that "bad Obama government" aren't doing a good job. When I was 12, I might have agreed to go after the "bad guys" with my Daisy BB gun. But I have grown up. Twenty children; 6 and 7 year-olds from *my* town will never have that chance to grow up, because the 1994 ban on that "military-style" weapon was allowed to expire in 2004!

The current pro-gun dialog is disrespectful of those children's lives lost; disrespectful to their families and *all* of those families who lives have been devastated by our nation's inability to grasp what is right. The national gun dialog has been pathetically sophomoric and at times indeed silly. The NRA is actually handing out report cards; and politicians are paying attention to their

“NRA grades” It is time for responsible Americans, politicians, gun owners to GROW UP and STAND UP for realistic, meaningful, legislated protection from this crazed proliferation of guns.

Our Founding Fathers are turning over in their graves, appalled at our modern ability to *confound* a simple statement designed to protect an emerging nation with no designated military, from being overrun by tyrannical forces.

“A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of people to bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

As a modern nation, we have long had that military power. And the words; WELL REGULATED militia are lost in the gun frenzy!

The NRA makes a mockery of the Second Amendment in everything they say and all the lobbying they do.

Just that fact that we are here today is evidence that poorly regulated firearms have become a major threat in everyday life. There is no other way to say it: guns ARE out of control! It certainly is not what the Founding Fathers wanted; nor expected.

We now have the opportunity to set it right, and we / you need to responsibly exercise that power handed to you by your constituents and to ignore the rantings and abuses of special interest groups such as the NRA and NSSF. This is PUBLIC SAFETY you are entrusted with.

As a nation, we put a ban on marketing tobacco and alcohol to minors. Yet, the NSSF here in Newtown is now proudly spending millions of dollars (as reported in the New York Times) marketing the fun aspect of shooting and owning AR15 “military style” semi automatic weapons by way of youth programs geared to ten year olds. Clearly the firearms industry feels their products are less dangerous than cigarettes or beer!

Strong, sensible gun safety legislation is way overdue and Connecticut families, American families are counting on YOU. Make the responsible choice!

I support a ban on military-style assault weapons and eliminating high-capacity (more than seven rounds) ammunition magazines. These items need to be removed from the state (and the nation). It is time to protect our children, not gun manufacturers!

Thank for your attention in this extremely important matter.