

This is a request to the Bipartisan Gun Violence Committee for one more hearing.

If you are truly a Bipartisan committee then I request that one additional hearing be scheduled allowing 6 hours of testimony by persons who have used a firearm in self defense.

The first public hearing at the State Legislative Building on Mon. Jan 28, 2013 was truly a bipartisan forum. All who wanted to speak either for or against were allowed to. Thank you for staying until 3AM to make that happen.

The 2nd hearing held at the Newtown High School on Wed. Jan 30, 2013 was not a bipartisan forum. Just by the nature of the location, it was readily apparent that the theme was to reflect what happens when a firearm is misused and the horrific results thereof.

It was also billed to the public as a chance for those who could not get out of work during the day on Monday a 2nd chance to speak after working hours. This was not the case as the meeting was geared towards victim's parents, residents of Newtown, first responders, politicians, law enforcement and school personnel.

I understand this must be part of the healing process but if your panel wants to truly portray a bipartisan image then this extra hearing should include persons who used a firearm to save their life or someone else's life or any circumstance in which someone used a firearm to deter a criminal.

I would like an answer from each panel member, especially if you don't agree that the self defense side doesn't deserve the same 6 hours. I believe this additional hearing will balance the forum of the Newtown hearing thereby equalizing all sides of this issue. After all we certainly want this very serious matter to be handled in a bipartisan manner, correct?

Thank you
Kevin Augeri