

Banning guns, ammo, and high capacity magazines will not solve the real issue that is facing our nation, keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill. The only thing it will accomplish is taking away the rights of law abiding citizens in this country who enjoy the sport and who must now suffer the consequences of our politicians rushing to judgment and implementing bad laws based on a horrible tragedy that happened in Newtown CT.

I believe you should consider implementing small changes initially, seeing if the common sense steps I outlined below will curb the gun violence we are all concerned about and want to mutually address.

1. No one should own a rifle or handgun without proper training. It should be a requirement for everyone wishing to own a gun to take a basic gun safety class. Although this would not have prevented the Newtown tragedy it would teach potential gun owners how important it is to handle and store guns correctly and the harm they can cause when they are not. If the guns were stored correctly in the Lanza home, the tragedy in Newtown could have been prevented. You cannot hunt in Connecticut without hunter safety course; the same should apply for gun ownership. Automobiles are just as dangerous as guns when they are operated by untrained individuals, they will take the life of the operator and the innocent. You need training to get a driver license; the same should apply for gun ownership.
2. Pass tougher gun laws to deter individuals from committing a crime with a gun. Florida has a 10/20/30 law. Have an illegal gun in your possession you serve a ten year mandatory prison sentence. Pull it out and you serve a twenty year mandatory prison sentence. Discharge it and you serve a thirty year mandatory prison sentence. This would be a big deterrent in itself.
3. I agree that you should close the private sale loophole.
4. On a national level, there should be an educational class developed for teachers to recognize students who demonstrate potential dangerous behavior. This should be a mandatory class. I believe if we can identify these individuals early enough and report them to the proper authorities, most if not all school related incidents will be avoided.
5. Individuals treated for mental related illnesses should be feed to the national background check registry.

These five common sense steps should be enacted immediately and should address all of the concerns of our State and Nation. If there is continued gun violence, then we should assess the situation and draft the next set of common sense measures.

Thank you for your time,

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