

Public Hearing Testimony from Kevin W. Fleming

Please forward to :

Full Bipartisan Task Force

Mental Health Services Working Group

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

School Safety Working Group

Part 4

Many of the laws that have been proposed have no legitimate public safety benefit and are just punishment of legal gun owners. For example:

Publishing the names and addresses of permit holders or gun owners. It will alert criminals to where they can steal firearms and where they can commit crimes against defenseless victims. The end result will be more stolen, illegal weapons in the hands of criminals and more victims.

An ammunition surtax. Ammunition is already expensive and subject to state sales tax. Adding a huge tax will probably reduce, not increase revenue. With Connecticut's state finances being in the dismal condition that they are, is this really a result that you want? Do you really believe that a deranged person who is determined to commit mass murder would be deterred by having to pay a surtax on ammunition?

An instant background check for ammunition purchases. This simply will not work. If you're familiar with the present "instant" background check system for firearms purchases, as I am, you know that it is not instant and has lots of flaws. During busy sale periods the present system cannot handle the volume of requests.

Banning high capacity magazines. When I retired I was given my service pistol and its high capacity magazines as a gift for my dedicated service. During my law enforcement career I risked my life many times to protect our citizens while carrying that service pistol, and would do so again. Do you mean to tell me that MY high capacity magazines are now a THREAT to public safety? That is nothing short of an insult to my career and everything I stand for.

Limiting firearm purchases. Read the DOJ studies that I cited earlier. Criminals obtain their firearms by stealing them or buying them illegally on the street. Limiting legitimate purchases will not only reduce state sales tax income at a time when the state can least afford it, it will not keep firearms out of the hands of prohibited persons.

The fact of the matter is that firearms are inanimate objects incapable of making decisions or taking action on their own. The vast majority of legal gun owners are law abiding and responsible citizens. Simply putting more restrictions on firearms and law abiding citizens has never and will never prevent violent crime. Criminals pay no attention to gun laws. Prohibiting firearms or even certain type of firearms will only insure that criminals will still have them to commit crimes and law abiding citizens interested only in protecting themselves and their families will not have them, thus insuring only more victims of crime. I don't know how many people legally own semi-automatic rifles, legally own firearms or have pistol permits in CT, but I do know that the number of these people who committed crimes at Sandy Hook School on December 14th was ZERO.

Gun ownership is a fact of life and a constitutionally protected right in the United States. Law abiding citizens have a constitutional right to life, to keep and bear arms and to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Kevin W. Fleming

