

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 2

The New York Times reported on 1-14-13 that although 80,000 firearms sales were denied in 2010 due to the applicant lying or providing inaccurate information on their background check form, only 44 of these people were prosecuted. This is outrageous and you should be taking action to make sure that persons committing these offenses are prosecuted. People who obtain handgun permits in CT already go through a lengthy process of completing an approved safety course, including a written test and live fire test, completing a detailed application form, being fingerprinted and undergoing a background check. There are exceptions to everything, but in my experience the vast majority of these people are solid citizens who use firearms legally and responsibly.

I am an NRA certified firearms instructor and teach shooting at a CT facility. When I ask students what their interests are in shooting and what they want to get out of their lesson, almost invariably the answer includes home protection. Simply put, people are afraid of violent crime. They know they can't depend only on the police and they want protection. We do not need to look any further than the murder of a defenseless family in Connecticut's Dr. William Petit case in 2007 to understand why.

http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/p/petit_family/index.html

Home invasion crimes are in the media almost every week. People are well aware that the police can't protect them from crimes like this. They also know that even if they are able to call the police they are on their own until the police arrive, which can be a long time. People in CT have not forgotten the case of Heather Messenger in 1998 in which the long police response time contributed to her death.

http://articles.courant.com/2001-02-18/news/0102202688_1_david-messenger-barracks-state-police

Please remember that average citizens like me don't have protection by the Secret Service, US Capitol Police, State Police Governor's Security Detail, State Capitol Police or private security details. We have to call our local law enforcement agency and our personal security is in our own hands until they arrive.

Kevin W. Fleming