

I would like to submit my testimony below for your consideration on gun violence. I also plan on attending the public hearing in Hartford on Monday, January 28, 2013

Respectfully, Lawrence Creagh

Thank you.

January 28, 2013

To the Honorable Members of the Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety:

I cannot imagine the depth of grief borne by the loss of a beloved child to the heinous acts of a madman. My prayers go out to the families who have lost loved ones, and also to the first responders who witnessed the aftermath of the mass murder in Newtown. Unfortunately, much of the media, our politicians, and celebrities are using the tragedy to point fingers and cast blame at the 100 million plus law-abiding gun owners in this country, and especially the approximately 4 million NRA members who were not involved in the murders. This blame has potential for turning into a witch-hunt like we have not seen since Senator Joseph McCarthy went after the alleged communists back in the 1950's.

However, these finger-pointers fail to distinguish between the object and its misuse. It is unfair to lash out against law-abiding people in an attempt to find a convenient scapegoat. I think it is ironic that the effect of this media attention has put thousands more rifles into the hands of citizens in the past few weeks. Nothing sells a product faster than to tell people that they soon can't have one.

Surprisingly few of the guns used in crime are these menacing-looking rifles. Many thousands more people are killed or injured every year by drunk drivers, yet there is currently no serious movement to ban the sale of alcohol.

Many people are ready to sacrifice our Constitutional rights for an imagined increased measure of safety. They forget that the Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights is the "iron" that backs the First Amendment (the right to free speech & worship). The right to bear arms includes the right to defend yourself from harm. I believe that any additional gun laws beyond what we already have on the books would serve no valuable purpose other than antagonizing and polarizing law abiding citizens.

In closing I'd like to quote the legal scholar, Alan Dershowitz who has said; "... (Those) who are trying to read the Second Amendment out of the constitution by claiming it's not an individual right or that it's too much of a safety hazard don't see the danger of the big picture. They're courting disaster by encouraging others to use this same means to eliminate portions of the Constitution they don't like."

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