

To the members of the Connecticut task force on gun control:

The rights that we all enjoy, as enshrined in our bill of rights, are not absolute. As it was explained to me in grammar school, my first amendment rights of free speech do not extend to my falsely yelling fire in a crowded theater. In other words, there are limits on my rights, limits which protect other people from harm.

So, too, should there be limits on our second amendment rights. Just as I am restricted in my first amendment rights, so, too, should gun owners be restricted in their second amendment rights. Our current laws governing the purchase and ownership of guns in this state and country are not protecting innocent people from harm. As we have seen time and time again, not just in mass shootings, but in daily shootings around the country, **innocent people are being harmed by this absolutist approach to second amendment rights.**

This does not make sense. I appeal to your common sense to meet this challenge by enacting meaningful laws that will protect both the rights of gun owners and those of innocent citizens. It is unfortunate that the NRA has shifted this debate so far from the center that anyone asking for this kind of reasonable limitation of gun rights is labeled extreme. It is the very soul of reasonableness to want to live in communities that are free of the threat of gun violence, whether it be from a deranged mass murderer, a mugger or even a self-appointed vigilante trying to protect himself or others.

Thank you for your attention,

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