

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Group-

I am writing to you to let you know i am OPPOSED to any type of "assault STYLE weapons" ban. I have been a citizen of CT my entire life and enjoy this area very much. I grew up on a 100 acre farm and enjoy target shooting very much. Its extremely fun and relaxing. I never got into hunting since i do like killing animals. I enjoy getting together with a couple friends on a weekend afternoon and target shoot with different types of rifles, some of which are classified as an "assault STYLE rifle". These "assault STYLE rifles" are nothing more then a semi-automatic rifle. Im sick and tired of hearing people asking why does a person need a military rifle or weapon of mass destruction. THESE ARE NOT MILITARY RIFLES, these are military LOOKING sporting rifle.... They work just like every other semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, and handgun. They are only classified as an "assault weapon" because someone gave them this name, it doesnt cause this weapon to act differently then any other, but the government, media, and ignorant people dont seem to understand this. Also, most people dont seem to know that real assault weapons are banned in CT already. They are just to ignorant to know this or learn this. By banning what we already have the right to own at this time, you are NOT solving any issues at all. You will just be causing many law abiding citizens to become criminals over night by the stroke of a pen. We law abiding citizens are not criminals, but thats all the government, media, and ignorant people make us out to be. You can ban guns or different styles of guns all you want, but as long as there are guns in the world there WILL ALWAYS be guns in CT and all other states. You could ban all the guns in CT and as long as there are guns in the US... there will be guns in CT.... ALL OWNED BY CRIMINALS, out to hurt law abiding, UNARMED citizens. Again, if your going to ban these so called "assault STYLE weapons" you mine as well ban ALL guns... BECAUSE THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE!! Im also sick and tired of hearing anti gun people and the government saying that an AWB will not effect law abiding gun owners and hunters.... Well im not a hunter and the guns that i enjoy are so called "assault rifles" so this is not going to effect me???????????????????? They are fun to shoot, and are fun to customize with a huge aftermarket following. Also a ban of these type of guns is going to hurt many in the industry and put people out of work. Also, I would like to know, If I am a US citizen, Why can other citizens in other states have more rights them me on what type of guns i am allowed to own? If an AWB further then what we have goes into affect in CT, I am going to be forced to uproot my family and move to a state that allows me to own what i want and what others can own. The Newtown tragedy was heartbreaking, and i did get teary eyed driving home that night listening to all the reports. Having two small children of mine own about to enter school, this hit home very hard, but an AWB is NOT going to solve anything. It angers me see you use the Sandy Hook tragedy to push your agenda of an AWB. Its obvious that it whats happening by having this last meeting at the Sandy Hook High School. Using the emotions of these poor people to push your agenda of robbing law abiding gun owners of our rights. Instead of making more laws that are not going to solve anything, why not enforce the laws we already have? There is all this talk about common sense laws, well then use common sense! Non of these laws im hearing are common sense. We already have background checks for handguns and long guns. If someone trys to buy a gun and is denied... have law enforce FOLLOW UP with them in person. Its obvious that

someone trying to buy a gun that is not supposed to have a gun, has an agenda!! This is COMMON SENSE. Right now, selling privately face to face handguns, you need to call in and have it verified, to my knowledge, this is not needed for long gun private sales... MAKE THIS A LAW, this is COMMON SENSE. Increase penalties to those that are caught with a gun that are not supposed to have one and those that cause gun violence, this is COMMON SENSE..... Teach owners better storage practices and those that dont, penalize... this is COMMON SENSE. I am also for better mental health practices, and getting people help, but this is going to put an even larger stigma on people with mental heath issues, and could cause them to try and hide it further. This is a HUGE issue all in itself. Generally most with mental health issues are not violent people, but this is going to put that stigma on them, that they are, just like gun owners and "assault STYLE LOOKING rifles" are getting the stigma of killers. This is farther from the truth. Its sad but true, that this type of violence is going to continue and will happen again. I wish it wouldn't but there is not way to truly prevent this. There are a few angry sick hurting people in this world want to take it out on others. Thats just human nature. Again, if "Assault STYLE LOOKING weapons" were ban and removed from CT, one could just dive out of state and get one, or buy one off the street and do that same thing, or purchase a couple couple hunting rifles, or a couple revolves and do just the same amount of damage as a rifle. Honestly, i have yet to figure out why these sickos chose to use a rifle, when in close quarters, a handgun is more suitable, easier to conceal and get into places, and can get reloaded just as fast. I have also hear conflicting reports that a "assault STYLE LOOKING weapon" was not even found in the school, but i don't know. If this is true im not really sure what to say. I know many of you along with our governor already have your minds made up thinking that an further AWB is the answer and will solve all these issues, but it WILL NOT, and you all truly know it. We need to get to the root cause and figure out what causes these people to feel the needs to hurt others, how to identify it early, and how to resolve the issues. If guns where out of the picture people would just find other ways to hurt others. Please think long and hard, and please use COMMON SENSE and make COMMON SENSE laws... not all these crazy and wacky ideas i have heard.

Thank you,  
Marc Cranick  
Columbia, CT