

Honored panel members:

I am a registered, responsible, CT gun owner, and like all members of society was sickened and heartbroken at the recent murders in Newtown.

I own firearms for two reasons: to protect my family and for the sport of target shooting. As the events of Newtown, Cheshire, and so many others have shown us, the police cannot protect us in a timely manner. It is up to the individual to protect himself/herself and his/her family.

Following the events at Newtown, one would hope that as citizens of Connecticut, registered gun owners would be treated with a modicum of respect by our elected representatives and the media.....unfortunately, this has not been the case. As a group we have been vilified, treated like criminals, and portrayed as an undesirable segment of the population. We have heard ridiculous proposals such as: publicizing the names and addresses of registered gun owners, making guns that fire more than one bullet illegal, a 50% tax on ammunition, mandatory gun liability insurance, and in one sickening comparison (as reported in a Hartford Courant article): creating a registry of CT gun owners similar to the sex offender registry. Many of these proposals will only serve to be a financial burden on lawful gun owners during difficult economic times.

Furthermore, these proposals are counterproductive to the goal of enacting sensible, helpful, controls, and only serve to galvanize resistance to such controls by gun owners.

There are sensible controls that can be enacted:

Re-institute the expired federal ban on assault weapons.

Ban high capacity magazines.

Re-institute the 10 day waiting period on handgun purchases.

Require background checks on all firearm sales.

Require that guns in a house must be locked up if there is someone under the age of 18 residing there.

I have no doubt that these "sensible" controls would be accepted by many responsible gun owners such as myself.

I respectfully ask that you listen to, and work with, lawful gun owners in CT before you formulate your recommendations. Please do not perpetuate the current atmosphere in which lawful, responsible gun owners are treated as second class citizens.

Respectfully yours

Mark Bear  
Hebron, CT