

Dear Representatives and Task Force Members,

I started drafting this letter immediately after receiving a reverse 911 call from Trumbull's First Selectman, Timothy Herbst. The message warned residents to an alarming high rate of January burglaries in our town. The break-ins apparently occur during the day between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Trumbull has many elderly, stay-at-home parents and people working from their homes. I fear it's only a matter of time before one of these criminals stumble upon a resident at home and the situation potentially turns into a much more serious and life-threatening crime.

My name is Mark Mikucki. I am a father of two young boys, ages six and nine. I have empathy and still grieve for the Newtown families. For the record, I strongly oppose any new laws restricting types of firearms, ammunition or magazine capacity. However, I do favor the carry permit process, background checks, safety training and laws that punish criminals for illegal possession and/or use of firearms.

Simply stated, gun laws do not change the behavior of terrorists, criminals or the mentally ill. Restrictive gun laws only disarm good people. It is very concerning that cities like Chicago that have adopted "strict" gun laws apparently have the highest violent gun crime rate in America. Let's not make that same mistake in Connecticut.

I also urge you to please let citizens have the choice and ability to protect ourselves from potential home invasions like the Cheshire tragedy. Restrictions on semi-automatic weapons and magazine capacity will only put the good at a disadvantage to evil.

Please focus on meaningful laws that will punish criminals and not infringe on the rights and privacy of law-abiding citizens. I consider focusing on the following areas a good use of my tax dollars:

- 1. an effective background check process for pistol permits and the purchase of firearms
- 2. funding to increase school safety
- 3. aid for the mentally ill
- 4. strict penalties for unlawful possession of firearms
- 5. strict penalties for criminal use of firearms

Three important reminders:

1. Your Oath of Office: You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to

law, the duties of the Office of State Representative to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

**2. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.** – *Bill of Rights, Amendment 2 of the U.S. Constitution*

**3. Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.** - *Constitution of the State of Connecticut, The Declaration of Rights - Article 1, Section 15*

Thank you for your time. I look forward learning of any decisions that will protect our children and not infringe on the rights of good people. Please push politics aside and help your neighbors with an all-inclusive resolution. May God bless you and help you through this important and difficult task.

Respectfully,

Mark W. Mikucki

Trumbull, CT - 123rd General Assembly District