

Dear Congressman/Congresswomen of the Violence Task Force,
I can no longer stand silent on the issue of gun control in the State of Connecticut. As my elected officials, I am asking you to resist measures by the anti-gun factions in this state and resist passing legislation that would ban magazines with a capacity over 10 rounds, banning so called "assault weapons", and imposing a tax of 50% on ammunition. First and foremost the second amendment of the Bill of Rights gives me the right to own firearms, and it expressly states this right shall not be infringed. I have no reason to explain why I "need" any particular rifle as the Second Amendment doesn't talk about needs - it talks about inalienable rights that all men have no matter their race, color, or creed. A new AWB, a 50% tax on ammunition, and magazine size limits are clearly an infringement of my rights, and I refuse to be complicit in enacting such heinous legislation by not speaking up against them. First, history has shown time and time again that bans do not work. We banned alcohol and that only made crime go up, and people still had access to booze. We've banned marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy and a slew of other drugs for years, and have nothing to show for the "ban" except wasted taxpayer money and the militarization of our police force. Simply put, bans don't work because the bad guys ignore them while law abiding citizens get stuck in the middle.

A ban on what you call "high capacity magazines" is also worthless - take 2 hours out of your day and you can do a magazine change in under 2 seconds. A 10 round magazine would have made no difference in Sandy Hook as the only person armed was the bad guy. Recent events in other states have shown a 10 round magazine limit for rifles and handguns may actually hurt the good guys. A mother defending her child used five rounds to stop a bugler in her home recently. The bad guy was hit 5 times before he finally stopped his attack. What if there were two, three, or four people trying to rob and rape my family? A ten or even worse a seven round magazine would be a death sentence for me and my loved ones. I hope you can see that a limit on magazine capacity may end up hurting more people than it saves in common self defense circumstances. When the bad guys don't turn in or dispose of their normal capacity magazines but I, the law abiding citizen do, he would have easily had the advantage in a situation repeated over and over again in this country. While me or my loved ones spend the time to swap out one 10 round magazine for another the bad guy just keeps on shooting. Also, the military refers to these magazines as 'standard issue' and not 'high capacity' as some do. It's easy to give a scary name to something, but it's much harder to look at the reality of the situation and see that the magazine is just a part of the whole, and is not any more scary than any other mislabeled part of a rifle. Some have brought up the idea of a 50% tax on ammunition in this state. That idea is sickening to me - the fact that this state wants or would profit from a tragedy is disgusting. What exactly is the purpose of this tax, where is the money going to, and what purpose does it serve exactly? 100 rounds of the .223 ammo the killer used sells for \$25 to \$30. The state would make a tidy \$15 off the tragedy. That is the unthinkable act. This tax will do nothing but hamper those trying to defend themselves (or practice defending themselves at a gun range) from purchasing enough ammunition to do so, or at worst it will send the criminals to another state to buy ammunition for their unregistered and illegal firearms. I am tired of living in a state and a country where ONE

bad person ruins something for EVERYONE! You can't legislate for the lone wolf or mentally disturbed individual. Stop trying to take away my rights and the rights of other law abiding citizens - we have followed the letter of the law when it comes to firearm ownership and have done nothing wrong. Imposing more restrictions on legal firearms owners will not solve the issue. While recent events in CT have been tragic it is important to remember that the gun is only a tool - a tool that until 2012 was only used to commit less than 4 crimes/murders a year in that state. Please think about what I have just said - according to the FBI rifles (never mind "assault rifles") were used less than 5 times a year to commit crimes in this state prior to 2012. While the events in Newtown are tragic, they are an aberration in this state, not the norm. The rifle is a tool that can be used for evil, but it can also be used for good. The good citizens of the State of Connecticut have overwhelmingly used the rifle as a tool of good and just actions for years. Do not let one madman override my constitutional rights because he chose to use a rifle to commit a crime. Over 1 million people a year use firearms to prevent violent attacks, rapes, car jackings, home invasions, and robberies. Do not be the person who takes away my right to self defense. Stand up for the constitution and do the right thing - vote NO on new anti-self defense legislation that calls itself "common sense legislation to stop gun violence".

Mark Prestash