

Legislators of the Gun Violence Task Force:

My name is Mary Smutnick. I live in rural, Northeastern Connecticut. I never grew up around guns, but in later years, I have taken several courses in gun safety, self-defense, and gun handling. I am a proficient shooter. It has become a hobby and great outdoor activity for me and my family.

I am here today to tell you that I do not want to see any further legislation that restricts my right to own, lawfully carry, or operate a gun, in defense against an attacker and that of a tyrannical government.

Being that I live in a rural area, phoning 911 for an emergency such as a home invasion would not be an option for immediate aid. My area of Northeast Connecticut is patrolled by the Troop D, Danielson barracks. They supply 5 road troopers for 13 towns, on the third shift. I came to need their services one night, as I made my way home from work. It took them 15 minutes to come to my aid. I was told by the trooper that there were only two troopers available for 'other calls' such as mine, as the others were already occupied with an emergency call.

Having studied our federal constitution and state constitutions to some degree, the ultimate concern I have is what is known as 'creeping Socialism'; my government's need to slowly, but gradually, eat away at this ultimate protection of our constitutional framework until all freedoms are lost. What is going on inside the walls of our state capitol and this legislative office building is an attempt to take our very protections away; to disregard the framework established for our freedoms.

This is the point at which my testimony is directed at you, not only my State Senator Guglielmo, who is on this panel, but all of you here, as well as your fellow legislators, both Senators and

Representatives. I am asking that you do some serious soul-searching, if you feel that you do not have what it takes to protect your constituents from what may lead to a serious abuse of power. Your courage will be tested. From what I understand, after these hearings are complete, there may be an executive order passed on further gun control. As a citizen, taxpayer, and freedom-lover, I expect nothing other than that all of you abide by the oath of office to which you swore; to preserve and protect our Constitution. There are checks and balances put in place for this very reason; to preserve our Republic. If the Executive Branch steps outside of its authority, I will hold you accountable to your oath.

We stand at a pivotal time in our nation's history. You must understand that your actions will be recorded in the books of history. The miracle, granted by our God and Creator, in the form of a Republic, is now at risk. Our Constitution, a product of constant work and sacrifice by our Founders, took more than 180 years, before being written and assembled in its final form. John Adams, in a letter to his wife, Abigail, in 1775 wrote: "But a Constitution of Government, once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever." (America, Land of Principles and Promises, Heritage Academy, 2011).

I leave you with a quote from Daniel Webster, a diplomat, lawyer, orator, and politician. "Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters." (America, Land of Principles and Promises, Heritage Academy, 2011).

I ask that each and every one of you make the decision to side with Liberty.

I appreciate your time and consideration today.

In Freedom,

Mary Smutnick
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