

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Public Hearing Testimony, Jan 28, 2013

Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group:

My name is **Michael Aron** and I live in the **Greater Hartford** area. I am here because I see that rather than focus on the mental health issues of the shooter in the Sandy Hook shootings, the General Assembly is using that tragedy to advance its anti-gun agenda under the guise of gun violence prevention.

My grandparents were murdered in concentration camps by their own democratically elected government. That democratically elected government forced citizens to register all their firearms and then, using the registration lists, was able to confiscate those firearms. Once the population was disarmed it was easy to round up those they didn't like. If you think that this cannot happen here in the US, think again. It already has.

In 1890, Federal agents disarmed and murdered 150 to 300 Sioux at **Wounded Knee**, South Dakota. Most of those murdered were women and children. The Indians were disarmed "for their own safety."

The **Fugitive Slave Law** of 1850 required that escaped slaves be returned to their owner. Accused slaves were not allowed to testify on their own behalf and trial by jury was denied. Gun control expanded after the civil war to deny newly freed slaves and immigrants the right to defend themselves.

In 1942, The United States disarmed and interned 110,000 Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor.

In early 1963, police and firemen turned dogs and fire hoses on disarmed blacks in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1970, The Ohio National Guard shot nine students, four of whom died, at **Kent State University**.

In 1993, the US Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms murdered 76 men, women and children in **Waco** Texas.

We have all seen the recent reports of various agencies of the US Government, including such agencies as the Social Security Administration, buying up millions of rounds of hollow-point ammunition. What are they arming up for?

The authors of the Bill of Rights created the Second Amendment so that the government, with all its might, would treat citizens as its equals. Current proposals, which include limits on magazine sizes and ammunition purchases, banning of specific firearms, and laying of exorbitant taxes on the purchase of such items, restrict the already weak right of civilian self-defense in the face of a powerfully armed government. That is exactly what I fear. I would rather trust my fellow citizens, with their many conflicting interests, than trust the questionable kindness of a powerful government. Bad things happen when the government stops talking and starts shooting. The Second Amendment exists to keep politicians and law enforcement talking to us rather than demanding obedience at gunpoint. The Second Amendment discourages government officials from using guns when words would suffice.

Since this hearing does not cover any specific bill, I am here to testify that I am opposed to any bill that would restrict the ability of law abiding citizens to defend themselves against criminals or against their own government with the same firepower they would use on us. I owe it to my grandparents' memory to make sure that such events as I've described can never again happen here.



Michael Aron
West Hartford, CT