

Please STOP the Knee-Jerk reaction that is leading both our state and federal legislatures down the path to damage rights guaranteed under the second amendment. If we allow this to occur, one of the basic tenants that our country's founders fought for and I served in our nation's military to protect may be lost forever. Every civil servant and military member takes an oath to "support and defend the constitution of the United States against ALL enemies, foreign and domestic". If you, as our elected official, force this through, using legislation forged by emotion at breakneck speed and allow our constitutional rights to diminish without TRUE thought and open debate, you are setting aside the oath you swore to uphold. The second amendment is NOT about hunting or sport shooting, it is about citizens having the means to protect themselves from tyranny and the loss of rights from foreign and domestic enemies.

The real question before us is "How do we as a society prevent these tragedies while NOT infringing on our constitutional rights under the second amendment?" The metric then needs to be "How would any of the proposed legislation have prevented the Newtown school tragedy?" In that light, let's examine some of the proposals:

Firearms:

- Comprehensive background checks for all firearms purchases. Connecticut already does this for pistols and long guns (rifles and shotguns). This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown.
- Requiring a permit for ALL weapons. We already require pistols permits. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown and would only further burden law-abiding citizens.
- Statewide gun registration for ALL firearms; while knowing full well criminals won't ever register their guns. The pistols used in Newtown were registered in accordance with current law. If the law required it, the rifle would also have been registered and still have been used. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown and would only further burden law-abiding citizens.
- Re-registration every 2 years (with fees). This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown and would only further burden law-abiding citizens.
- An outright ban on ALL modern sporting rifles classifying them as "Assault Weapons." This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown and would only further burden law-abiding citizens.
- Restricting your ability to defend yourself and family by arbitrarily restricting the magazine size to 10 rounds. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown and would only further burden law-abiding citizens.
- Confiscating ALL magazines holding more than 10 rounds, pistols included. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown, would only further burden law-abiding citizens, and may have ramifications concerning illegal search and seizure.
- Requires permit for any rifle with a pistol grip. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown and would only further burden law-abiding citizens.
- Mandatory gun storage laws. Not only would this have not changed the outcome in Newtown and further burden law-abiding citizens, laws like the one were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Heller decision.

Ammunition:

- A 50% tax on ammunition. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown. It would only serve to further burden law abiding people who enjoy shooting sports.
- Limiting how much ammunition you can purchase AND possess. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown.
- Registration of all ammunition purchases. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown.

- Banning internet sales of ammunition in Connecticut. This would not have changed the outcome in Newtown.

Legislation that might prevent further tragedies would be related to improving the mental health system in our state. People with mental health issues, like the killer in Newtown, need real medical help and we in society are NOT providing that help. We need to start doing that again. Furthermore, enforcing already existing gun legislation and prosecuting to the fullest extent of the law those who commit firearm-related crimes should greatly reduce gun crimes in general.

I urge you to reaffirm your oath and NOT pass gun control legislation that would turn law abiding citizens upholding their second amendment rights into criminals. By passing more restrictive gun control legislation you would only serve to take away our rights, make it easier for violent criminals, and not address the real issues behind the recent tragedies. Please address the REAL sources associated with this issue.