

Legislators,

With little doubt the Newtown tragedy is one of our nation's most horrific acts of violence we have witnessed in a long time. With that and the additional information that has been released in the last few weeks, it is acceptably understood that changes in our laws and how we view violence needs attention.

It is very clear that there was a lot of influence from video games and the need to "compete" for status and notoriety based on some of the material found and disclosed. This is a common denominator in many mass murders and is not just confined to mass shootings.

Tighter controls need to be placed on video games that portray and glorify horrific killing and crimes. We need to stop glorifying the individuals that commit these crimes. It is a sad fact that many people know the name "Adan Lanza" but can't tell you the name of one victim.

There are too many people (more than ever) that are being over diagnosed and medicated with drugs to control behavior issues. Why do many of the very drugs being used to control mental illness have many harmful side effects including suicide? How can the pharmaceutical companies and the FDA allow these types of poison be used to treat people who already have psychological problems? Isn't this like using gasoline to extinguish a fire? Studies have shown that almost every mass shooting was committed by an individual who was mentally ill and on some type of prescribed medication for a mental disorder.

While it may be alarming to some people who do not understand shooting sports, the amounts and type of ammunition that was found in the Lanza home should not be questionable or alarming. During a normal target shooting session (in one afternoon at the range), a person can easily shoot five hundred or more rounds of ammunition. Limiting ammunition is not going to stop anyone from crimes of this nature. Criminals will always get the supplies they need through unlawful means.

Please remember, Timothy McVeigh killed 168 people, 19 of them were children, and he didn't use a gun. The tools of destruction were fertilizer, racing fuel and delivered in a box truck. None of these items were banned as a result of his carnage.

While this has been stated many times, our state already had the toughest gun laws in the country and did not prevent the Newtown tragedy. More restrictive laws will only affect the people that already obey the law and who do nothing wrong. More restrictive firearms laws will not prevent a criminal from committing future attacks.

Gun free zones invite criminals and provide them with an easy and open invitation to commit their tragic events. Eliminate these "safe places" for criminals to attack and commit these types of crimes and the instance rate will be reduced.

From the cries and requests of gun control proponents, banning certain types of firearms and what is being labeled as "hi capacity" magazines will be the cure for future shootings. This is far from the truth and reality. Violent people are the problem, not the firearm or magazine capacity. More people are killed each year by "hammers" than rifles, but do not get the same attention or

are banned.

As legal firearms owners, we are trusted to own the firearm and the “standard capacity” magazine that originally was furnished with the firearm. Why should that change?

If a law is passed banning magazines that hold more than 10 rounds that were legally possessed and purchased, why should the responsible firearms owner bare the expense of replacing magazines or where smaller magazines are not available, the cost of a new firearm that is within the law. Who will pay for this? The innocent owner who did nothing wrong?

As legal firearms owners, we are responsible tax paying, voting, caring (parents) and concerned citizens of this state. We are being persecuted, villianized and punished for the actions of one single person.

While you as legislators have a very difficult job to do in determining what needs to be done to best protect the citizens of our state from violence, you will need to develop a plan that is both effective, practical and does not trample the Constitutional rights of and or cause financial burdens to responsible firearms owners. Please do not let political agenda influence your decision. When you were sworn into office, you took an oath to uphold the Constitution, please do not forget what that oath meant and what our founding fathers fought for.

Please introduce legislation that is focused on the real problem of violence!

respectively,  
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