

My name is Michael Schwabik and I reside in Cromwell, CT

Like everyone else I was horrified at the horrible tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School and my deepest sympathies go out to those who lost a loved one on that tragic day. However our reaction to this tragedy should not be to act quickly or allow the tragedy to be used for political purposes by the same people who try to advance their gun control proposals every year.

Is there some particular reason that the legislature feels the need to rush laws through when the final police report has not been released? Certainly there are going to be any number of details in the report that would be important in allowing the legislature to make an informed decision on what needs to be done instead of the haphazard rush currently occurring.

Given the state's finances, can the state really afford to spend money on court cases the state is likely to lose? While some in the legislature will rejoice, can the state afford the loss of tax revenue and jobs if firearms companies leave the state and can the state afford the loss of tax revenues from the citizens who will leave Connecticut for other states more willing to respect their rights? Will the citizens of CT vote for the legislators who caused their taxes to go even higher when companies and residents leave?

Gun Control doesn't stop crime. Vermont, with some of the least restrictive gun laws in the country, has virtually no murders. Washington, DC and Chicago with nearly complete bans on handguns have some of the highest numbers of murders in the country.

The truth is that no law this legislature passes will prevent horrible tragedies like Sandy Hook from taking place. No law can prevent a mentally disturbed individual from committing a crime. If they are willing to break the laws regarding murder, why does anyone think a gun control law will suddenly change his mind? The mentally disturbed murderer committed: 27 counts of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder, including his own mother. Does anyone really think he is going to be stopped by yet another gun control law?

Gun Control leads to Democrats losing at the national level, if major gun control passes at the Federal level, expect to lose some or all of the following states in 2016: FL (29 EV), VA (13 EV), OH (18 EV), PA (20 EV), NV (6 EV), CO (9 EV), NM (5 EV), IA (6 EV), WI (10 EV), MN (10) & MI (16 EV). These are all states that voted Democratic in 2012. After their push to pass overly restrictive and possibly unconstitutional laws, the political careers of Governor's Cuomo, O'Malley and Patrick will likely never include the White House.

If you don't believe me, look at 1994 when the Republicans took back the House of Representatives. Bill Clinton has acknowledged that gun control cost the Democrats the House in 1994 as well as the careers of several important Democratic Representatives, including Speaker of the House Tom Foley. In a recent speech on 1/19/2013 former President Clinton blamed Al Gore's loss of CO in the 2000 Presidential Election to George Bush due Al Gore's support of gun control. Al Gore lost in CO, TN and probably AR because of his views on gun control. If Al Gore had won either CO or TN, he would have been President.

Thank you for your time.