

Greetings,

I am a law-abiding citizen, a hunter, a certified firearms instructor, a certified range safety officer, a competitive shooter, and a responsible gun owner. I take pride in teaching, promoting, & applying all aspects of firearms safety. I am extremely saddened by the tragic events of Newtown, Connecticut, but I believe that efforts to impose more restrictions on myself and other lawful and responsible firearms owners like me will not be beneficial. I am strongly opposed to any gun control legislation that has come about due to the tragedy that occurred at the Sandy Hook Elementary School last December. While I grieve for all of us affected, and wish that such an occurrence never again happen, I also realize that attacking the Constitutional rights of law abiding citizens is not the proper corrective measure to take. Every facet of what happened that tragic day was already covered by existing Connecticut & Federal law. **It is extremely important that you understand that this crime was committed in a state where we still have an Assault Weapons Ban in place. Connecticut currently has some of the strictest firearms laws in the nation in regards to gun ownership. (Ct. is listed as fourth).** There are no voids in this area. The real shortcomings are found in our state's mental health fields, services, & policies. I encourage you to focus more on strengthening mental health care and improving the quality of data supporting NICS checks (National Instant Criminal Background Check System). Please, DO NOT pass more gun laws; instead, work to enforce existing gun laws. Firearms are banned in Chicago and yet it has the highest homicide rate with firearms in the country. Proof that there is absolutely no legislation that can be passed that will stop evil people from doing evil acts. Simply stated, **criminals do not follow laws**, that's what makes them criminals. **I am not a criminal**. More legislation will only punish law abiding citizens. I ask that you please redirect your energies in addressing the real cause of the problem.

Respectfully,

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