

Thank-you for serving on the Safety Task Force to make recommendations on matters regarding firearms, school safety and mental health. These are all important issues.

Sadly the emphasis over a long period of time, has been placed on attempts and successful passage of laws focused on burdening and binding lawfully armed citizens of Connecticut. More sadly, attempts to restore or at least improve mental health services and any laws that would support that for Connecticut's affected citizenry continue to be neglected and avoided. Why is that?

It seems to me that we have enough restrictive "gun" laws in our state. Ours are among the best modeled legislation in this nation. However we do know through their actions, that those who have no respect for themselves or their community will never respect a law. We should enforce what is in place and require that the penalties for breaking these existing laws be carried through without any chance of reduction.

I do agree with many others, we need a better way to verify that an individual is not affected by a psychological impairment that must prevent the state from allowing them to be issued a firearm permit. There is an obvious indication that the US needs to vastly improve its mental health system and implement a reasonable confidentiality policy. It's evident that it's badly ailing.

I ask that you and your fellow legislators carefully weigh the proposals before you and dismiss the radical suggestions that some would promote. The findings of the Sandy Hook investigations have yet to be released and indications are that confidentiality restrictions will prevent a full disclosure of any sociological or mental health issues involved. A hasty, one sided, heavily weighted anti-legal-firearm-owner approach to safety legislation will not achieve the stated desired result.

- Additional new restrictions on types of firearms, magazines, ammunition and, or range targets in Connecticut are not needed to prevent violence.
- Additional financial burdens placed on lawful citizens in the form of taxes and liability insurance requirements will not support the goal of better safety.
- Enforcement of existing laws and consistent execution of the penal code by the "system" would help remove the criminal aspect from the equation.
- Financial and technical support from federal and state revenue sources directed to the school systems for local decisions on physical security improvements and safety plans should be fully encouraged.
- Reasonable improvements to the processes of permitting individuals and firearms purchasing should be explored. They include: NCIS verification for firearms purchases; 24 x 7 availability of state verification services; integration of mental health "flags" into the verification service

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my input. I would have liked to be at the Public Hearing but my work obligations prevent that.

Best regards,

Michael Zygm