

## TESTIMONY TO THE GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

In the wake of the School shooting in Newtown, lawmakers in Connecticut and the Federal government are rushing to pass all types of gun control laws. These laws are meant to placate antifreedom and emotionally weak politicians and public, without any absolute certainty that any one child's life might be saved. There are several ways to address this issue. The least effective of these, are laws passed to limit the moral absolutes and Constitutional freedoms of law abiding citizens. We have the moral right to life and to preserve that life, and that of our families. We have the Constitutional right to defend our country and to preserve freedom. The original intent of the Second Amendment was to give the ultimate power to the people ( We the people). Our founding fathers did not trust a standing army. They only authorized the Navy and dissolved the Continental army. A citizen militia, well trained to defend the homeland with privately owned firearms ( the type necessary to combat an invading force). The American citizen is the first responder. As first responders we willingly put our life in harms way in self defense. We are responsible for our own lives. It cannot be true that violent crime is an offense against a person and the dignity of that person, and that citizens ought not resist violence but leave the crime to be dealt with by the State. Why would violent criminals respect our lives and our liberty when we ourselves do not value them highly enough to assume responsibility to defend them, and not hold them worth fighting for. A police officers life is no less valuable than mine. Since all power is vested in "We the people" how can we justify a police state? Connecticut lawmakers were very apt at abolishing the death penalty and passing a law for early prison release. Sixty percent of violent crimes are committed by repeat offenders. Need I say more? The Federal Government allows illegal aliens to kill 9000 American citizens each year, and they give hundreds of firearms to Mexican Drug cartels costing the lives of hundreds of Mexican citizens and two US border agents. I'll trust God first than myself before I trust the government. Gun control laws are an excuse of personal responsibility for addressing the real problems in society. It is the lazy persons approach to the solution and a cowards cure for a guilty conscience. Thomas Jefferson said, " No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms." George Washington said "A free people ought to be armed..." George Mason, "I ask sir what is the militia? It is the whole people. To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them." This is about freedom. I urge you not to support any laws or restrictions on firearms, parts, accessories, or ammunition, and no registration of privately owned firearms. Do not punish the law abiding citizen for the actions or expected actions of criminals or the mentally unstable.

Testimony submitted by, Mike Santangelo, Prospect, CT