

Dear Senators/Legislators and the entire Task force;

I write this to ALL of you, with hopes you will actually have an opportunity to read my opinion.

As a Sandy Hook resident, and a neighbor with three families on our street who lost loved ones, I need to express my thoughts as it relates to the imposing of additional, and very one sided possible legislation of additional gun laws.

It is a well known fact that CT is already among the many states in our country with the some of the toughest gun laws in place on the books. Of the approx 170,000 carry permit holders and of course the tens of thousands of other gun owners in our State, I ask all of you to stop making this issue a political contest - Dems / Repub.

Common sense says no one wants another human being to lose a life as a result of a gun, or for that matter a car (check your statistics of this legal killing machine) however, with all of the skewed, and fabricated "facts" printed in the papers, social media platforms, radio, etc., the facts, and statistics never really seem to get passed to the public properly for reasons I am sure we all are aware of.

Nevertheless, we are nation of over 300 mil people, and the true statistic for gun related deaths is significantly less than 1/2 of 1/2, of 1/2 etc of a percent of our population. I continually hear the number being discussed readily these days of 33-36 people killed every day by a firearm. We all are also really quite aware that of this statistic, the number is very small in comparison to our entire population, both in CT, and on a national level. I must say -NO DEATH or INJURY by a firearm should be acceptable respectfully. The number may or may not include suicide by a firearm, (I am not completely sure of this fact), the vast majority of gun related deaths by firearms, is committed by illegal weapons, and by those possessing firearms illegally. I would like to emphasize the word illegal. The madman in my town of Sandy Hook, was illegal in every sense of the word.

While I am very troubled by what I read with respect to the possible legislation and remain apposed, I am exceptionally concerned by what this task force has brought to the floor for conversation, and it pertains to possible confiscation - taking away of ones guns, magazines, etc. ANY reasonable US Citizen, and especially our political leaders, should be ashamed of themselves for even broaching this very dangerous concept, and clear violation of the 2nd amendment - This is clearly an infringement upon my rights, as well as the tens of thousands of law abiding citizens in CT. More importantly this mere thought is downright frightening, and should be to gun rights advocates, and even those apposed to guns. Who knows where confiscation could lead to next..? It should be a very dangerous thought to all Americans who abide by the Constitution of the United States of America.

As our political leaders, it is YOUR job and your responsibility to represent EVERYONE, in an equal and unbiased manor. Reactionary decisions usually end up problematic and one sided - this is not Democracy - it sets precedence for further dangerous one sided legislation.

You were all voted in to office to protect and serve, and hear and listen to the voices of ALL of us- all law abiding citizens.

Please remember- Like the rest of Connecticut's law abiding citizens, I am very proud of being a law abiding citizen, and expect to be treated as such when it comes to my rights with firearms.

The Sandy Hook event was an act of a cowardly madman, NOT A LAW ABIDING INDIVIDUAL.

I ask you to set aside any personal agenda, and do the right thing for which you were voted into office for - to represent all of us on both sides - equally without prejudice. Uphold the constitution of our State, do not impose new restrictive gun laws or confiscation of any kind, please enforce the already existing gun legislation to there fullest extent of the law

I am a proud American, a CT Citizen and I vote!!

Thank you.
Neal Berko
Sandy Hook, CT.