

Pablo Soto
Meriden, CT

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Task Force on Gun Violence
Prevention and Children's Safety

Distinguish Legislators and Members of the Gun Violence
Committee.

I thank you for the opportunity that you have afforded us today to speak before your presence in relations to this very important topic. I will be very brief as to not be redundant with similar feelings that others in this room have with regard to this topic and to give others ample opportunities to express their feelings as well.

What happen in Newtown, CT was indeed a terrible and horrible act, my thoughts and prayers have been with those families since that tragedy, not only does the state mourns for this tragedy, but the nation and the world along with us.

Having said this, the blame falls squarely on the individual that perpetrated this evil act and evil itself and no amount of gun restriction could or would have prevented this to happen.

What we must not do is react to this tragedy with legislation that may have unintended consequences. Blaming and punishing the law abiding gun owner for this or any other criminal element act is simply unjust.

As a veteran and former member of CT National Guard, I was entrusted with thousands of dollars of destructive weaponry that would be used against enemies to defend this country, state and our liberties. We now find ourselves making the case to our elected officials for our personal right and liberties to defend ourselves and our families with similar weaponry.

As a soldier I swore to uphold the constitution of the United States of America and as far I can tell that

constitution has not changed since it has been written. In that constitution there is a section known as the "Bill of Rights" and one of the "Bill Of Rights" is the 2nd amendment which states "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed". This is the same constitution that you have all affirmed an oath to uphold as elected officials of the people, by the people for the people and I as part of the people do not support the proposed gun legislation bills that are being put forth.

I am willing to compromise and accept legislation that will prohibit the purchasing of rifles and ammo at any store without the a hunting license or firearm permit, this should be sufficient to deter individuals from purchasing these items for other illegitimate reasons.

I leave you with this quote by Thomas Jefferson (quoting 18th century criminologist Cesare Beccaria)

"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

I refuse to be that unarmed man.

Thank you for the time and opportunity, my hope is that you make the right decisions.

May God bless you all!

Pablo Soto

Meriden, CT

consvact@cox.net

203-675-7472