

Dear Distinguished Members of The Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence and Children's Safety,

I have been informed that The Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence may have public hearings regarding your legislative proposals. I have also been informed that these meetings may only allow for a combination of invited speakers and leaders of organizations that have an interest at hand with the task force.

This will not suffice. Governor Malloy is pressuring you to work outside the scope of your oaths. I request full public hearings on any legislation that results from recommendations from each task force working group.

There is also no justification for emergency certification of any proposal - and no proposals can be allowed to bypass the normal committee and public hearing process. The people of this state are entitled to full and open public hearings.

Please do not cave to Governor Malloy's pressure - ensure that the process is followed and full, open public hearings are held.

Also, I implore each of you to review buried testimony, under "Anonymous 33" on the task force website (<http://www.cga.ct.gov/asafierconnecticut/tmy/0128/Anonymous%2033.pdf>) that was submitted before the first public hearings, showing the results of a survey that is still in progress regarding gun control legislation. There are currently over 3,700 responses to this survey and the results are overwhelmingly against all gun control proposals and future proposals.

While it is certainly reasonable to review existing legislation to ensure that we are doing our best to prevent tragedies such as Sandy Hook, one can never legislate intent. Those who wish to do harm will always find a way. This is not a reason for inaction. It is, however, a reason to ensure that any action taken is carefully considered, and does not create an impediment for the law-abiding, while doing nothing to curb the intent of those who wish to do harm.

Too often in situations like this, "We must act!" is the cry that resounds from legislators, and it is done without careful consideration. Action for the sake of being able to say one acted is irresponsible and all too often ineffective. If the proposals of this committee cannot stand in the full light of open public hearings, then perhaps they should not stand.

Please follow the process established for the benefit of the citizens you serve, and permit us to participate in it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kazlauskas,

Torrington, CT