

To the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention & Children's Safety:

As a pastor of a church and school who serves a Connecticut community, I would like to thank you for serving Connecticut. I am writing to you to ask you to OPPOSE the bills in the title of this note for the reasons below.

All of these bills violate the CONNECTICUT CONSTITUTION, especially Article 1, Amendment 15 and the US CONSTITUTION, 2nd Amendment. The right to defend one's self and property is a God given right that you should not infringe on PERIOD. History shows that tyranny constantly threatens democracy, hence the reason I even have to write this letter to you. If the government starts taking away the 2nd amendment, the 1st amendment is soon to follow. If you pass these bills, it will violate the rights of LAW ABIDING CITIZENS, who committed no crimes on December 14, 2012. Lest we forget that the massacre at Newtown was done by a criminal, who violated many of the gun laws that are already on the books, which you were not able to enforce. Instead of creating more laws, I would like you to enforce the ones we already have, which would have prevented the Newtown massacre. I work at a school and I will be the first to tell you that the "gun free safe zones" are a failed policy. Sandy Hook Elementary was neither a "gun free" or "safe zone" on December 14, 2012. If you really want to stop something like this from happening again, please allow all teachers the CONSTITUTIONAL right to defend themselves and their students.

#### **HB05112 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS HOLDING HANDGUN PERMITS.**

This violates my family's privacy, and puts us in danger by giving criminals more information to use. They will know what houses to target to steal guns. It would also supply addresses of people that criminals may want revenge against, such as police and judges.

#### **HB05268/HB05452/SB00140 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE BY FIREARM OWNERS AND ESTABLISHING A SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION.**

This proposal is an attempt to make guns impossible to own. You cannot buy insurance that will cover law suits by people you shoot in self defense. This would not make the public any safer. Another tax does not ensure that guns are not in the hands of the people that should not have them. Taxing ammunition is an attempt to make it harder for legal, legitimate gun owners to use their guns. There is no reason to single out gun owners for this. This would be similar to taxing automobiles at 50% -since they kill more people than guns.

#### **SB00122 - AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON GUN USE.**

Our founders wanted us to have the right to bear arms is to prevent tyranny. This proposed bill is tyrannical because it gives the government all of the power and its citizens none.

Limiting guns to a single round effectively renders them useless for defensive purposes. Almost every gun in existence can fire more than one shot. This bill would effectively take away our ability to defend ourselves in our homes.

### SB00161 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE.

Limiting the number of rounds in a magazine limits our ability to defend ourselves. Many legitimate, legal gun owners own handguns that can hold 15 or more rounds. Gun owners should not be turned into criminals because they already possess these magazines. This bill does not address the issue of guns getting into the hands of criminals.

Changing the definition of an assault weapon as proposed would define many legitimate sporting weapons as assault weapons. Assault weapons are not the problem here. This is simply an attempt to deprive legitimate gun owners of their legal firearms.

Requiring a permit for a rifle with a pistol grip will not make the public any safer and again does not address the issue of keeping weapons out of the hands of those who should not have them.

Restricting the sale of ammunition will simply create a black market for ammunition. Legitimate gun owners should be able to purchase ammunition, including on the internet, without expensive tracking or permits. The criminals will still get ammunition through other sources so this will not make anyone safer.

Registration of firearms is the first step to confiscation of guns. It will do nothing to make the public safer or make police work any easier after a crime is committed. There is no reason for legal gun owners to register their guns. Criminals will certainly not register theirs.

Please oppose the aforementioned bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Pastor Joel Cundiff  
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