

Dear Task force Members,

As a life long resident of Connecticut, I was shocked by the Newtown shooting, and mourn for the victims and their families.

You have a challenging task before you, and I hope that you are granted ample time for fact finding, public comment, expert testimony, and review. And that what ever decisions made shall be based on those criteria. I hope Connecticut does not enact any unjustified & rushed emergency legislation similar to New York.

Undoubtedly you have a call to action from the residents of Connecticut, but voiced from two factions. Your oath of office, to uphold the Constitution, should guide you to meaningful recommendations over personal infringements.

Unfortunately after this tragic event, our lawmakers are mainly focused on "gun control", as recognized by the flood of gun related and gun restriction proposals.

I hear our elected officials shouting that "*we must do something*". "*With such free access to guns, we must do something.*" All about guns, guns, guns. And that's acceptable to everyone - acceptable only if the members are focused on gun crimes and gun criminals. No press release comments from our officials that we are 5th in the country for strict gun regulations. We HAVE tight restrictions.

"*Such free access to guns*": Travel anywhere in Connecticut. You will see drug stores on every corner, typically at least two with bright neon lights. How many gun stores line the same main streets enticing patrons as such? None. Most gun stores are discrete and cater to responsible, law-abiding residents.

"*We must do something Now*": That something should not be knee-jerk proposals that infringe on lawful Connecticut gun owners, as many appear to do.

As a lawful responsible gun owner and collector of "assault weapons and hi-capacity magazines", I cant help but react defensively to such proposals. I broke what law?

I do not support any proposed gun restrictions or magazine bans for the factual reason that more laws negatively impact the majority law-abiding people.

Regarding the magazine bans: In March of 2011 the State of Connecticut proposed such a magazine ban bill. Please review the public hearing and testimony. Overwhelming facts and testimony were put forth that proves any ban would hurt the law-abiding, and empower the criminals. Please note: The men and women of all ages and backgrounds that spoke at the hearing were concerned law-abiding residents of this state - not NRA spokespersons.

Regarding all current gun restriction proposals: I am a trained, responsible, safe, and lawful gun owner. I find it troubling that some elected officials with no knowledge of firearms, that have personal security, or work in buildings armed with security, can assert their beliefs as to what limits are acceptable for me and my family. And such limits do not apply to them. Similar to a King and his subjects. If further restrictions are

enacted, please inform me as to how seizure of rights and property will make me and my family safer.

This is a gun task force. I strongly recommend proposals that target the criminals that use guns, without infringing on lawful gun owners.

If gun control is the only important topic for our lawmakers, then may I recommend some sensible ideas?

- Enforce current gun laws. They're out there, yet regularly dismissed by the courts. Let's begin to use them.
- Propose stricter gun laws pertaining to gun crime - not gun ownership.
- "Hi-Capacity Magazine Ban" Yes, for the criminals. Any and all magazines used in a gun crime that hold over 10 rounds shall be punishable by a minimum of ___ years in jail, in addition to any other offenses.
- Propose minimum qualifying regulations for persons who wish to obtain firearms that are designed to hold more than 10 rounds, or considered an 'assault style' weapon.
- Propose government credits or assistance to gun owners for firearms safety courses and gun safe purchases.
- Propose educational ad campaigns about firearms. Factual information concerning the real dangers, responsibilities, and yes benefits of firearms. This should be as important as the current alcohol and drug education efforts.
- Propose minimum storage requirements for firearms in any household with children.
- Moral behavior can not be legislated. But recommendations can be made that address the lack of community in our state. WE are the community - gun owners and non gun owners alike.

The lawful responsible gun owners of Connecticut care about the current events that have plagued our communities and our nation. We are not the problem. We simply request our voice be heard, not to be infringed upon, or put on trial for crimes we will never commit.

In closing, please consider what our forefathers knew to be true.

"Necessity is the plea of every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants, it is the creed of slaves."

~William Pitt, 1783

Sincerely,

Pat Coleman
32 Murphy Rd
Franklin, CT