

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Task Force,

From: Paul Acampora 32 Center Road, Woodbridge, CT. 06525

I would like to voice my opinions and plea to you.

I am opposed to all and any anti-gun bills currently being proposed.

In particular HB-5934, HB-5949, HB-5951, HB-5955, HB-5956, HB-5957, SB-501, SB-504, SB-506, SB-600, SB-601, SB-605, SB-608, SB-609, SB-611, SB-612, SB-615, and all similar bills.

This is not the answer to preventing crimes similar to what happened in Newtown.

I am fumbling for words to describe the evil that existed for the event in Newtown to take place. Clearly this was evil.

I am a husband and a father of 6 children. I have also lost close family members to tragedy. My heart goes out to the husband of the school principal thinking about what he is going through with the loss of his wife and 5 kids to raise without her. I can clearly relate to this since I went through a similar experience having two young daughters at the time when I lost my wife.

Although I have not lost a child, I try to understand the pain the parents in Newtown may be experiencing.

My prayers go out to all the families that have lost loved one in this tragedy.

I have thought about this long and hard. The answer to me is clearly NOT to ban AR-15 style rifle and high capacity magazines or increase taxes on ammunition, etc.

I am an NRA Certified Instructor and teach gun safety. I take safety as my number one priority.

My reason for teaching gun safety is to prevent accidents.

This event in Newtown was clearly not an accident. It was intentional. I can't stop evil from existing, but as it stands I have a choice to be able to protect myself from such evils and limit its effects on myself and my family. I feel that it is my responsibility to come home to my family each night regardless of what evil out there waiting for us.

I believe the answer does not lie in removing the certain types of firearms and limiting their effectiveness to law-abiding citizens. I believe it is in recognizing those that are evil and helping to prevent them from committing such terror and crimes.

It is a fact that in the areas that are not "Gun-Free" there is less violent crime. It was brought up in February of last year that the AMC theaters were announcing to the public that they were going "Gun-Free" nationwide. Unfortunately it was discussed and questioned how long it would take for a criminal to recognize this and attack one of the theatres.

The Colorado theatre mass murder was an AMC theatre. That event happened less than 6 months after they announced they were Gun-free.

Most of our Malls post that they are gun-free. We have had several Mall mass-murders. The one in Oregon in December was in a Gun-free Mall. Fortunately it was stopped by an armed citizen and the death toll was reduced to 3 and not 27. I do not take my family to any malls or theatres that post gun-free because I consider them to be unsafe due to the fact that criminals will not obey their postings and carry into these areas leaving me in an Un-safe area.

I believe one possible answer to situations similar to this is to utilize “trained and armed, police, guards, volunteers, or staff (potentially teachers) in the schools and remove the Gun-free status from our schools. I can assure you that if the principal or others in the school were armed in the Newtown school, the school the death toll would not have reached 27.

If we don't make similar changes like I mentioned, it is a matter of time until there is another attack on our children in our schools.

This has been proven in other states like Texas and Utah, where it is legal for Teachers to arm themselves and enter the school. Pass a law like this, and it will make a difference. Take away the gun-free zones.

In Texas the instructors have been allowed to arm themselves after careful selection and a training program.

This has been effective.

<http://www.wect.com/story/20389661/texas-town-allows-teachers-to-carry-concealed-guns>

Now please take my words into consideration, as I do care for the school teachers and the children and want to see no more harm come to them. I believe we should be embarrassed that the only defense those teachers had was some books and chairs.

I would also like to explain that Connecticut already has an assault weapons ban in place. It did no good in this case. Strengthening it will also do no good. The criminals will commit the crime, and if not with an AR-15, they will do it by some other means. An example is the case of the school in Bath Michigan in 1927. where the custodian used explosives to kill 38 children. This was not done with a gun or an assault weapon.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath_School_disaster

Please take all my words into consideration when you deliberate these knee jerk reactions.

These proposed bills will be making honest law abiding citizens into criminals by the possession of guns and magazines they already own and limit their ability to protect themselves and their families.

This is un-constitutional.

Also, are you aware that most all modern firearms come from the factory with a capacity to hold over 10 rounds.

This ban would make just about every new firearm fall under this ban.

It's not the gun or the capacity of its magazines that's the problem. It's the “individual” that used it.

Has anyone thought about compensation for personally property purchased before the ban?

Have you thought about the manufacturing companies that will consider leaving Connecticut as the laws are changed?

The answer is not removing the guns, it is removing the Gun-Free zones and getting a hold of our communities and children through proper education.

It is truly not the firearm or the type of firearm that killed the innocent teachers and children, it is the individual.

Thank you,

Paul Acampora
Woodbridge, Ct.