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**Bipartisan Task Force on  
Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety**

**Dear Members of the Task Force,**

**In Connecticut's Uniform Crime reports, from 1994 to 2011, there were 2138 Murders in the state. 361 were committed with a knife. 139 were beaten to death with bare hands or feet. 106 were killed with blunt objects. The total number of people murdered with a rifle were 36. If you factor in Sandy Hook your total number is 63 in 18 years. This is in a state with 3.4 million people. That means the odds of you being murdered in the state of Connecticut with \*ANY TYPE of RIFLE\* is 1 in 971,500; the odds of being hit by lightning is 1 in 770,000. Think about that.**

**Next lets look magazine size limits. From 1994 to 2004 they were limited to 10 rounds under the federal assault weapons ban. Crime dropped after it expired in both the state and in the nation. Please watch this 1:30 second video I made demonstrating the difference between 10 round and a magazine that holds more than 10 rounds. I think you will be shocked.**

**[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_\\_TUE7GNxbU&list](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__TUE7GNxbU&list)**

**Next it have its been suggested that we track ammunition sales. We logged all ammo from 1969 to 1986. It was part of The Gun Control Act of 1968. After 16 years not single crime was solved or prevented by tracking ammo sales. It was scrapped. Trying to run a NICS check on every ammo sale would overload a system that often gets back logged. Trying flag large ammo sales will not work either. 2 bricks of .22 long rifle on sale costs about \$50. That is 1000 rounds of ammo. In fact, most target shooters buy cases of ammo, not single boxes. One or two psychopaths planning a mass murder will not stand out from all target shooters who are doing nothing wrong.**

**I looked for any proof that any gun control laws have ever been shown to reduced violent crime anywhere in USA or in the rest of world for that matter. They either had no effect, like Connecticut's**

**Assault Weapons Ban or Nation Assault Weapons ban, or overall violent crime went up after the gun control laws were passed. The UK, Australia, Chicago, Washington D.C. and The Gun Control Act of 1968, are examples of this. Even Vice President Joe Biden admitted that any new gun control laws would not likely have any effect on crime when he was caught on a mic. The video is here, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTyoppK\\_aDM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTyoppK_aDM) it runs 1:05. In fact features that politicians think make “assault weapons” are features that do not change the function or the ballistic performance of the rifle. In fact they no different then any other semiautomatic firearm. Its not based in fact, it is based in emotion, fear, ignorance and political talking points. A Ruger Mini-14 Ranch Rifle is not an assault weapon, and the Bushmaster XM-15 is called an assault weapon. They have the same rate of fire and use the same .223 Remington cartridge.**

**I did find an interesting comparison. Morton Grove, Il. a suburb of Chicago passed a handgun ban in 1982. Shortly there after Kennesaw, Ga. a suburb of Atlanta, passed a law that \*REQUIRED\* the ownership of a firearm by every head of household. They also have exposed carry. Morton Grove really had no change in crime. There were slight fluctuations that reflected national trends. In Kennesaw, Ga., crime dropped by 90% and remained there even though the population grew by 500%. Its a fraction of the national average. Morton Grove, they repealed the gun ban in July of 2008. Their crime rate dropped steeply. You see legal gun ownership deters crime. Its why crime dropped in every state that has a shall issue concealed carry law.**

**Putting in place gun registration and requiring permits for long guns would be expensive. Canada had federal long-gun registry was first created by the Liberal Party in 1995, in the wake of the 1989 massacre at Montreal's École Polytechnique, where a gunman shot and killed 14 women, mostly engineering students. It was \$2-billion boondoggle. It did not reduce crime.**

**Other than placating people overwhelmed by emotion and demanding something be done, I see no rational reason for doing this. Then again this pushed by people whose ideological beliefs are driving this position since the 1960's. Facts do not seem to effect their policy positions.**

**What does work to reduce violent crimes? Active policing with arrests**

**for all felonies and class A misdemeanors. Do not plead winnable case down to lesser crime. Have stiff mandatory minimum sentences for anyone using any weapon in crime. Follow up actively on parole and probation violations. Make a make violations a new felony. Steven Hayes and Joshua Komisarjevsky were both in violation of parole and probation terms. You also need to end foolish programs like risk reduction earned credit program.**

**This was passed \*AFTER\* the Petit Murders. RREC already has at least 2 murders as direct result of this program.**

**I do not see how extending NICS checks would hurt. It may reduce straw buyers. I doubt it will have a large effect. Most private sales are among friends or family.**

**Finally we closed 4000 state inpatient mental health beds in 1995. We closed 3000 more in 1996. We closed another 125 in 2010. Right now we have under 350 state inpatient mental health beds at CVH and Riverview. Its virtually impossible to get a mentally ill person civilly committed. Even if you can, there no place to put them. We are one of the few states not to have outpatient civil commitment law. Since 1998 we have had 4 disturbed people who fell through the cracks, who committed mass murders in this state. Combined, they killed 56 people. 16 of them were killed with no gun involved. Please see my full 32 page written testimony (attached) or in mental health section at A Safer Connecticut. It actually touches mental health, crime, the justice system, gun control and constitutional law.**

**<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ASaferConnecticut/testimony.asp?sWhich=0129>**

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