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

Dear Members of the Task Force,

I waited to submit this until I could see all 4 of the hearing in their entirety before commenting. I did well over 80 man hours research before composing this. I combined that with my real life experience. It did not cite, footnote or add bibliography, but I could have. To be honest, my high school guidance councilor talked me out of taking a typing class, I type with one finger. It would it would have doubled the 5 days it took to type this. If you need a citation or have any questions, I would be to happy to address them.

First I should tell you a bit about my background. I have lived in the city of Hartford since 1975. I am a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University and Trinity College. My degrees are in psychology. I have been in the past licensed by DCYS and DMR to administer medication in facilities with populations under 50. I worked with at risk youths including the mentally ill and with adults with developmental disabilities. I have been licensed real estate agent and licensed mortgage broker. I am a graduate of the Hartford Citizens Police Academy. I am the treasurer of my condominium association. I have owned firearms since age 18. (49 now) I a member of the Windsor Marksman Association {NRA/CMP club more on this later} and competitive shooter with rifles and shotguns since 1998. I do not have a pistol permit or hunting license. I do research and answers question on allexperts.com , which is NY Times company. I have answered over 10,000 questions. All of this combines to give me unique perspective others may not have.

I want to say I want to give my sincere condolences to the families who lost or suffered because of the maniac who committed the Newtown mass murder. I can not imagine how those families feel. Parents should never have to bury their children. I hope they can find peace.

First I would like to say I strongly against *ANY* legislation moving forward before the final police report is issued. It needs to be reviewed and studied. Then after that, any bills should be debated in normal way. You can not make good law without knowing what happened. There are way too many unresolved issues

including the shooters motivation. What medical treatment he had or did not have. Was his mother attempting to get him a conservatorship? Was he taking medication now or in the past. Did he have diagnosis for a mental illness other than the developmental disability Aspergers Syndrome? Was he using alcohol or street drugs. When did he develop mental illness if he did. Did he attempt to buy a gun? Did the gun jam? {this one is real important more on it later} How were the guns stored? What were the other firearms in the house? Did he consider using some other type or method of committing mass murder like using bombs, fire, etc. How long was he planning the attack. Did he do or say anything online that could have exposed his plan. The list goes on and on. There is no pressing crisis. I understand that people were shocked, horrified and scarred. They want something done. That a natural response to tragic event like Sandy Hook. But acting without all needed information may cause laws that will not solve the problem or may even create a larger problem due to unintended consequences. Many people point to Australia as an example of a gun control success in stopping mass murders. In reality, there were two mass murders after after the Port Authur Massacre 1996 and the gun ban was in place. In June of 2000 Childers Palace Fire that killed 15. The madman used fire as a weapon. Then in 2002 there was Monash University shooting which used a .38 caliber revolver. The problem was not solved. In fact, in the past at times, Australia has gone 10 to 20 years without a mass murder. The fact they have not had one since 2002 is meaningless.

Then there is the unintended consequences. Ordinary crimes like sexual assault went up 29.9%, robberies went up 6% assaults went up 49% overall crime is went up 42.2% over 10 years. Crime had been falling before the gun ban. In all fairness, there are fewer people being shot, but more people being hurt and murder only dropped 3%. Right now, their violent crime rates per 100,000 is 2nd highest in first world. The highest rate of violent crime per 100,000 is the UK. They have 2034 violent crimes per 100,000. They are seriously looking at knife control. If you wondering, the violent crime per 100,000 in the USA is 466. Even with our urban gang murder problem, we not even close to that level of overall violent crime. There was another unintended consequence the rat and mice populations in rural areas skyrocketed. Rat mice and other vermin had been kept in check in 4 ways; poisoning, trapping, predation and shooting them if other methods failed. Animal Planet showed a mice infestation in Australia on its show Infested! There thousands of them in one spot. It looked like the ground was moving. You took away an important tool and they got out of hand. Rats and mice can carry and spread disease like the Bubonic plague & Ebola.

I want dispel some myths about firearms and how they function. Semi automatic rifles, pistols and shotguns are not new. They have been around 1880s and commonly available since around 1900. Cosmetic features do not not

change how they function. They fire one shot at a time. Next, there is no classification of firearms called "assault weapons". This is a term made up by an advertising agency hired by the California Democratic party in 1989. The term was intended to confuse people who were ignorant as to how firearms operate and to blur the line between semi-automatic rifles, pistols, and shotguns, with military assault rifles. Sadly it worked. Assault rifles are a class of weapons. They are rifles that are select fire (semi auto, 3 shot burst and/or full auto) and use a round smaller than a full size rifle round, but bigger than a handgun round. By definition they are less powerful than main battle rifles. The cartridges used by a main battle rifle are typical of what is used for deer hunting. 30-06 Springfield and .308 Winchester are examples of this.

Next I want to address .223 Remington round. People say you do not need it to hunt deer. Well if you get caught hunting deer with .223 Remington, the game warden arrests you in most states. It is simply way too underpowered to get a clean kill on anything that weighs more than 20 pounds. As a hunting round it is used for small game often referred to as varmints, at distances between 100 and 300 yards. There are rifles chambered for .223 Remington made as single shots, bolt actions, lever actions, and semiautomatic. The style of the rifle action does not affect the ballistics performance of the round. How powerful a cartridge is determined by the size of the bullet; both weight and diameter, the bullet style, soft point, hollow point, full metal jacket, etc. and the speed of the bullet. This combined gives the foot/pounds of energy of the round. If you look at a ballistics table it will give all this information. The farther the bullet travels the less the speed and energy it has. Every ammo maker has a ballistics table available for their products, (I am using Hornady 2012 catalog ballistics table) So a .223 Remington is a 22 caliber, 55 grain bullet its velocity is 3130 feet per second and has 1190 foot pounds of energy as it leaves the barrel. After 200 yards it dropped to 2280 fps/692 fp.

Now let's consider a couple of typical hunting rounds used for deer, bears, moose, elk, etc. If you walked into Cabela's and asked to see a deer rifle they would be a rifle chambered for one of these rounds. The 30-30 Winchester which has been around since 1894. This is used in the typical lever action rifles you often see in movies about the Old West. Well over 10 million rifles made by Marlin and Winchester are chambered for this round. It is 30 caliber, 170 grain soft point bullet, that leaves the barrel its has 2200 fps and 1827 fp of energy. After 200 yards its down to 1450 fps/ 793 fp of energy. Its far more powerful than .223 Remington.

30-06 Springfield was a US service round developed in 1906 used in single shot, bolt action, pump action, lever action and semiautomatic rifles. There well over 25 million rifles have been chambered for 30-06 in both civilian sporting arms and surplus military arms. Its one of the most popular hunting and target shooting

caliber ever made. Its a 30 caliber 168 grain full metal jacket bullet, leaves the barrel at 2710 fps/2729 fp of energy. At 200 yards its still moving at 2340 feet per second and has 2046 foot pounds of energy. At 200 yards it can pass through a cast iron V-8 engine block or cinderblock and concrete wall. This is not an armor piercing bullet. This regular jacketed lead bullet. There are many center fire caliber's out there. There are few dozen are ballistically similar to 30-06. There are over 30 different caliber's that out perform 30-06. I am going to come back to this as to why its important.

Now you may be thinking why would the military adopt the tiny .233 Remington round for service use? In Vietnam, long range patrols that lasting 30 days were common. They could be hard to resupply. The M-14 rifle weighed 12 pounds and fired 147 grain (weight of bullet) 30 caliber bullet. The ammo weighed a lot so you could only carry about 200 rounds. The M-16 weighed 7 pounds and its ammo used a tiny 55 grain, .22 caliber bullet. You can carry more ammo because it weighs so little. If you are humping everything need on your back in a jungle weight is extremely important. Now most people think the job of the military is to kill people. Its not. Its goal is win the battle. If you kill an enemy you remove one man from the battlefield. If you wound a man enough to incapacitate them, you remove 3 people from the battlefield. The wounded man and 2 stretcher bearers. While the wounded are being moved to the rear; it interferences with reinforcements and resupply moving forward. There is an advantage in wounding and not killing the enemy. I learned this in Army ROTC at UCONN, I was cross enrolled while at ECSU. I know because I asked the question, why the rifle we use has such a tiny round. At the end of the 2nd year I failed the physical so my planned career as an army officer was derailed.

(here an US Army training video. it help you understand what I am about to explain. Please watch it. <http://youtu.be/bJODc5t7SGY> Here is another Army video showing how the M1 Garand rifle works. This is more typical of how most semi auto rifles and shotguns work regardless if its sporting arm or military arm. The enbloc clip is unique to M1. Most use a box magazine or tube magazine. <http://youtu.be/GJJeBXZeVZU>)

Now I would like to talk about how fast a gun can fire and magazine capacity. You will hear M-16 has a cycle rate of being between 700 and 800 rounds a minute. That is how fast it can fire if it has unlimited supply of ammo and you do not have to aim the rifle. As we know these rifles use a 20 or 30 round magazines. To be blunt the state trooper told cycle rate which is accurate but not realistic rate of for the full auto fire; thus its misleading. With magazine changes and aiming you are under 200 rounds a minute on full auto. An Armalite Rifle design that only

has a semi automatic function is far slower. Yes it can fire as fast as you can pull the trigger. You need to aim it between shots. After you fire a round the rifle recoils and the muzzle lifts. You need re-acquire the target or move to a new target then aim. Being just a little bit off means you will miss what you are shooting at, even at very close range. So how fast can actually really fire an AR design semi auto rifle and hit a target? Its 40 to 50 rounds a minute. How fast can you change magazine? 1.5 to 3 seconds and that applies to all rifles and pistols. Using a clip or a speed loader for a revolver maybe a second longer. Is the AR-15 design any faster any other semiautomatic rifle or shotgun? No its about the same. I use the M1 Garand in competition. I can fire 40 aimed shots a minute. I can fire 25 rounds a minute from the 1903A3 Springfield bolt action rifle.

The next you may ask how fast can other action types fire? Single shot break opens, 10 rounds a minute. Bolt action 20 rounds a minute. If you practice a lot 30 rounds a minute. That was training standard for the British and Common Wealth Armies while the bolt action Lee Enfield rifle. A lever action rifle is 25 to 30 rounds a minute. More if uses smaller rounds like 44-40, 45 Colt long, 38 Special or .22 rim fire. Some can reach 40 rounds a minute. A pump action is about the same speed as lever action.

People seem to think rifles that can fire 40 shots a minutes are new. In 1779, there was .46 caliber 22 shot repeating rifle adopted by Austria. It is the Girandoni Rifle. Its well documented that the Lewis and Clark expedition had one.

Now do to urbanization, and our not needing hunting for food. We do not have high school or college rifle teams anymore. As late as 1960s, they were still common. Boy Scouts, 4H and most summer camps all taught about marksmanship and gun safety. We do not do that much anymore. Getting a single shot .22 rifle or shotgun was typical gifts as right of passage at age 13 or 14. Teens were sent out to get meat for the table prior to WWII. It was not odd. Now people would think most of that is crazy. Guns were sold at every hardware stores, department store and mail order catalogs. It was just a tool. No background checks, no waiting periods. Most inexpensive guns had no serial numbers. That started to change in 1969 as the gun control act of 1968 took effect. As time went on more and more gun laws were passed all claiming they reduce crime and make people safer. People began to see firearms as something to be feared rather than as a tool to feed and protect your family. We stopped teaching children about them. As a result, many people are ignorant about firearms. They think firearms work the way they do in movies and on TV.

The AR design really is not a beginners rifles. It is easy to teach someone to shoot one. Its pin point accurate out to 600 yards in a match tuned rifles. They are, however, more complex then most other semi automatics. Thus they require a lot more maintenance. Because the design sends gas directly to the bolt without an

operating rod, it gets fouled by burnt powder quickly and easily. If it has too much or little lubricants it will stop working. It needs to be taken apart cleaned completely. This takes time and practice to learn how to do this unless military trained you. It can take hour and half for a beginner to clean one. Most beginners do not clean and lubricate them properly. They will also jam if you used cheap after market magazines and those hold more than 30 rounds. Go back watch the videos if you did not watch them. This will make sense now if you did.

Now the Hartford Courant reported that the State Police said there were partially full magazines on the floor. There were also unfired shells on the floor. There was some speculation it might have been because of his playing video games. There a simpler answer. The Bushmaster XM-15 was not properly cleaned and maintained. It jammed and he was trying clear it. This is why I said it very important to know if it jammed or not. While people worried about magazine capacity and people being shot multiple times. The death toll was pretty small given the amount of time he had in the building. I seen conflicting reports as to how long it was. Some said the 911 call was 9:38 and police were in the building 9:48. Others said it was 6 1/2 minutes. We do know, because we not do have the final report. We know he fired into the doorway to get in. He shot the principal and the psychologist in hallway. He then went into a classroom and killed everyone. He moved to another room killed and some people got away. I not seen a reliable report on how many shots were fired. I saw that one some said it was 120 rounds fired. But I could not find it confirmed by an official source. Again we do not have the police report. If it was somewhere around 120 shots. The victims had 3 to 11 bullet wounds according to the coroner it doesn't make sense. That is unless bullets went through more than one victim and or bounced off the floor or walls and hit people. Its all completely possible. If it is was only 120 shots it only accounts for 2 minutes of time.

Now lets make believe all AR type rifles were banned, and so was the semi auto shotgun. Furthermore, lets add in the pistols did not have magazines of more than 10 rounds. You have 50% tax on ammo. Permits and registries all the other things purposed. You still have a maniac shooting up the school. You did not solve the problem. Nancy Lanza would have passed any background check. If you denied her she had plenty of money to take you to court. I repeat you did not fix the problem.

There were reports that there were other long guns in the house. Most people would have a .22 caliber rimfire rifle. They probably have typical deer rifle. This is why I brought up deer rifles earlier. If he had Winchester model 70, Remington model 700 or a Savage model 110 chamber for 30-06 or similar round; while these are all only 5 shot bolt action rifles, and they have no removable magazine at all. However, shot for shot they far more powerful. A single shot would be

devastating and fatal at close range if you are hit in the head or torso. (less than 400 yards) There is no need to shoot anyone more than once. The bullet would pass through the victim and right through the wall. It would bounce around in the next room with enough energy to wound or kill. A bolt action will not jam. It does not matter how dirty it is. In six minutes you can easily fire 120 rounds. When police arrived the vests they wear will not stop typical deer hunting round. Those are designed to stop handgun rounds and shotgun blasts. Even the best military body armor will not stop a rifle shot unless you are more than 200 yards away from source of the shot. I will repeat these are NOT armor piercing bullets. These are regular bullets. If they hide try to hide behind the aluminum engine block, they still get wounded. Their 9 mm handgun won't go more than 50 yards. The M-4 carbines the police have are not that accurate over 350 yards because it has 16 inch barrel. While most sporting rifles do not have iron sites for more than 500 to 800 yards. Scopes can go well over 1000 yards. You can shoot to an area at 2750 yards with 30-06. You may not believe me. You had a State Trooper who said he was a sniper during the hearing. Please call him and ask him if what I said is true. Also ask him what caliber rifle he used a sniper. It's likely he will say 30-06, .308 Winchester or .300 Winchester Magnum. All of these are used as hunting rifles. Which brings back to unintended consequences. People assume the Army uses the black scary looking gun it must be extremely powerful. The Aurora Colorado shooter the AR type rifle jammed. He did most of the firing with the shotgun and hand guns. In the Oregon Mall Shooting the gunman fired 2 shots out the AR-15 and it jammed. A civilian with carry permit drew down on him but did not fire because he could not see if anyone was behind him. The shooter saw him and ran to a stairwell and got the rifle a cleared then committed suicide. Oh ya the civilian never noticed the mall had a "gun free zone" policy till afterward. Thank God!

Now lets further engage in a bit of magical thinking. Lets say there are no firearms at all. They were uninvented. Now think about the thought process of someone who is becoming angry and unbalanced. First decide they want lash out at the people they think are harming them. They then decide next how to do that. It could anything from keying a car to assault to a mass murder. Then say they decide on murdering his mother and attacking a school. He could have strangled his mother using an extension cord as a garrote. Then steal her car. Wait until the dismissal time at the school. At that point 600 kids were walking out of the building at the same time. He could have then used the car he stole to run them over. He could have easily killed more than 26 doing that. Another option is he uses the internet to find out how make a bomb using fertilizer (ammonium nitrate) and home heating oil/diesel fuel. He starts assembling the components he needs to build a car bomb in secret. The morning of the attack he stabs is mother to death. He the assembles the car bomb. Drives to the school in a stolen car and crashes

into building detonating the bomb. That is not that different from what happened in the Oklahoma City Bombing. He could have killed and injured far more than 26. Lets take another scenario. The killer uses the internet to find out how to make napalm. (Vaseline and gasoline mixed) He starts collecting glass bottles, rags, gas cans, a lighter. cloth shopping bags and Vaseline. He beats mother to death with a golf club. Assembles his napalm Molotov cocktails and drives to the school in the stole car. Uses the the car as battering ram to get through the door. Then starts tossing the the jellied gasoline bombs.

Another possibility is he uses the internet to find out how to make gun powder based bomb. Its only sulfur, charcoal, and potassium nitrate (saltpeter). I am going stop here for second. I worked at private provider youth shelter. We had a kid who went to the library and looked up how to make gun powder. He assembled a gunpowder bomb and put it under a large commercial grade gas stove. He set it off using a matchbook as detonator. He had the right chemicals but in the wrong proportions. It smelled awful and made some smoke but did not explode. This incident was documented in both shift reports and the bound log book used for major incidents. The Department of Children & Families has access to those records. I can not tell you anymore because of confidentiality laws. DCF may not be able to tell anymore either, but they can verify it happened. There were close to 200 people in the building at the time.

Yet another option is he waits for mom to be in bath tub. Toss a plugged in hair dryer into the tub and electrocutes her. Takes her car buys a couple of machetes. Drives to school. Waits for kids to be on the playground and attacks them. He could be do the same with a baseball bat. The point of this is to illustrate that there are 100s of ways to commit a mass murder. Its only limited by how intelligent and creative the killer is. Using a gun is simply the first easy thought. You do not want these people to become creative in how try to do a mass murder. The death toll could escalate. The worst mass murder at a school in US history was in Bath Michigan in 1927. At that time you could buy a full automatic Thompson Submachine Gun mail order. Andrew Kehoe choose to use explosives. He rigged school with explosive and built a car bomb. He prematurely detonated but still killed 45 people and hurt 58.

Look at all how many rifle were used in murders over the years here in Connecticut.

Starting 1992 the the numbers were not broken by type of weapon other than general things like firearm, knives, hands etc. There 115 murders involving ANY type of firearms.

1993 we also did not states on firearms types but 140 murder victims were from gun shots. Los Solito Ghetto Brothers and Latin Kings had started their gang war. It accounts for up tic in numbers. 1993 is also when we passed the assault weapons ban. We do not have stats on how many were rifles.

1994 there were 216 murders. Firearms were used in 73.1% of them We started by type of firearms. Rifles were used 4.4% 3.2% used shotgun. More people were killed with knives than shotguns and rifles combined.

By 1995 the Feds came in and broken up the gangs using RICO laws. We add police due to the federal crime bill. Murder fell to 150. Firearms were used in 102. Rifles 2 shotguns 4.

1996 158 murders 110 used a firearm. 3 rifle 3 shotgun.

1997 124 murders 80 used a firearm. 5 rifles 0 shotguns.

1998 125 murders. 81 used a firearm. 5 rifle and 3 shotgun.

1999, 107 murders 74 used a firearms. 2 Rifle 5 Shotguns.

2000 98 murders. 62 used a firearm. 3 rifle and 1 shotgun.

2001 106 murders, 72 used a firearm 2 rifle and 2 shotgun.

2002 88 murders and 40 used a firearm. 1 Rifles 5 shotguns

2003 117 murders. 60 used a firearms. 0 rifles and 1 shotgun.

2004 100 murders , 47 used a firearm. 1 rifle and 2 shotguns.

2005 112 murders. 63 used a firearm. 0 rifles 2 shotguns.

2006 135 murders 91 used a firearm. 1 rifle 4 shotguns.

2007 108 murders, 72 used a firearm. 1 rifle 4 shotguns.

2008 128 murders 81 used a firearm, 1 rifle 0 shotguns.

2009 107 murders 70 used a firearm. 0 rifle 2 shotgun.

2010 132 murders, 95 used firearm 0 rifles 1 shotguns.

2011 128 murders 94 used a firearm 1 rifle 1 shotgun

Total murders 1994 to 2011 was 2138. Only 36 used a rifle of any type. 44 used a shotgun.

I have no total on 2012.

Just for comparison there 361 killed with a knife, 139 beaten with hands or feet, 106 used a blunt object.

So how many “assault weapons” were used, we simply do not know. Compared to the total number of rifles and shotguns out there, “assault weapons” are only a small percentage of the total number. If you look at these numbers there nothing to indicate that rifles or shotguns are problem in Connecticut. Certainly there is not a problem with our guns laws. Even if factor in Sandy Hook you still have 1/2 as many people killed rifles as killed with bare hands. Hartford was listed as the 9th most dangerous city in America in 2004 because a single innocent. That is a mentally ill woman was placed in the Greenwood Manor nursing home. She murdered 16 people using a BIC lighter by setting a fire.

Murders have been have been between 90 to 130 a year since we crossed 3 million mark in population in 1970. In a few periods were drug crime spiked up, in 1979 to 1982 when powder cocaine use was peaking, and again 1987 to 1994 when Crack Cocaine & Heroin use started to increase. The gang turf war followed it; murders temporarily went up. Overall crime has been dropping just like they have nationally.

How many times are private guns used to stop crimes in progress? Dr Gary Kleck of Florida State University School of criminology set out to find out the answer to that question. What he found was it was 2.5 million times a year nationwide. Many of these many of these were unreported to police. In states like Connecticut were you do not have the castle doctrine and you have a duty to retreat; if someone is trying to break into your house or menaces you on the street and you make it clear you have a gun. The police well may arrest you for threatening the criminal if you call them. In most of these cases the gun is never fired. You can read some of Kleck's work here. <http://tinyurl.com/bzjhlf6>

The Department of Justice contracted to University of Pennsylvania to repeat the study. They had similar finding at 2 million times a year. There only one been national study county by county of the effects of concealed carry of firearms on criminal activities. Its was done Dr John Lott while he was at University of

Chicago. His working hypothesis was more guns would equal more crime. He found the just the opposite. More guns equals less crime. More Guns Less crime was originally published in book form in 1998. He updated it in 2000 and again 2009. Its in print and available at any bookstore. Make some coffee its a real dry boring read. The study is well constructed and results are valid. Since it goes county by county, you can see the effects in places that strict gun control laws and effect of those that do not.

When concealed carry laws spread across the nation, gun control activist made wild claims that blood would be running in the street. Small arguments would escalate into murders. It would become the Wild West. This never materialized anywhere. Crime went down. I suppose maybe the activist should done some research. While there some colorful incidents that made great stories, in actuality crime was very low in Wild West compared the Eastern cities.

While crime rose in the 1970s and 1980s cities like DC and Chicago passed gun bans . Others like Miami and Detroit, really restricted access firearms. Each took its turn as being the murder capitol of the United States. When Atlanta Georgia became a boom town, it was followed by a crime wave. The crime started to spread in suburban areas. In 1982 Kennesaw, Georgia took a different path than other cities and towns. It pass an ordnance REQUIRING all homes and business to have a firearm ammunition and a person trained use it. Certain people who were prohibited and those people that had a reasonable reason to not have were exempted. They also have exposed carry of handguns. You could walk down the street with a Colt 45 on each hip and perfectly legal and a common sight in Kennesaw. Gun control supporters predicted a blood bath, which never materialized. What happened was crime dropped like rock and stayed there for the next 30 years. Crime rates per capita are 1/2 that of the national average. In 2007, Family Circle Magazine listed Kennesaw, Georgia as one best places to raise a family in the United States.

Many people have brought up the CDC studying gun crime. The Studies done by Dr. Arthur Kellerman an ER doctor with no social science research skills, is what they are referencing. Unfortunately its classic example of cherry picked data in only a small number cities in a cooked books study. Kellerman was right up front that wanted all guns banned before he even started. I could write 10 pages on what was wrong with his study. Here here one example. He mixed burglaries and robbery together. By definition there is no confrontation in burglary. Yes if your house is being broken into and you are not at home, you having a gun does not mitigate situation. There are 10 or more break ins for every robbery. Robberies have a face to confrontation and a gun can protect you if you are a victim of one. By mixing the two you water down results. He did not figure in that not every robbery victim had a gun available. He also did the same thing with murders

accidents and suicides. He came to conclusion guns make you less safe and it is risk owning one. When study came out 1995 other academics quickly discredited it. In 1996, Congress cut funding to Kellerman studies. It was wasted money.

There also was another study being done at Department of Justice looking at more or less the same thing. When their findings were published on the DOJ website during the Clinton Administration. They were embarrassed it contradicted their policy stance. See in a study that used valid methods and found the one thing you can do, to reduce your chance of being a crime victim by 2 1/2 times is to own a gun. The study is available at any federal depository library. After the Heller case made owning a handgun legal in Washington DC, murders dropped 25%. Nationally it only dropped 10%. Overall crime dropped over 40%. There was some improvement in policing. The criminals had to be wondering who is armed and and wasn't. The change is too great in one year for that not have been a factor.

I can find no evidence that high capacity magazine have been any problem in the past. There are people who will say that smaller magazines could allow people to overpower murderer while they are reloading. That great in theory. However, almost every mass shooter had more than one weapon with them. I can find 1 example where only one gun was used. That was Gabby Giffords shooting. Its also the only one that did not take place in declared "gun free zone" since 1955. There was a person concealed carry permit in the crowd. He help subdue the man but did not shoot as did not have clear sight picture. In 1998, Janet Reno's Justice Department looked at post "assault weapon ban" crime patterns. They found no evidence that this law had any effect on crime rates. They did see crime fall but concluded it was a result of more police on the streets, the new community policing model, and longer sentences for criminals. UC Berkeley repeated the study a few years latter and had the same results.

Now a bit on ammo sales. The gun control act of 1968 initially required all handgun ammo sales required to be logged in and required positive id. This was including all .22 Long Rifle Ammo. You had to have an Id like drivers license purchase it. After 25 years this was dropped. In all that time, not even one crime in entire nation, was solved using this information. It was useless. Requiring in person ammo sales would do nothing to reduce crime. Also keep in mind hunters may buy a box or two of ammo. Target shooter buy cases of ammo as they use thousands of rounds a year. When they buy factory ammo its in bulk and they price shop. They also reload the brass cases and plastic shot shells. I do not see how background checks on ammo would do anything clog up the NICS check system. The idea of tracking large ammo purchases as a way finding someone trying someone who is plotting a mass murder sounds good on paper but it will not work its too much data. The last time I bought ammo from the Civilian Marksmanship Program, I got 768 rounds 30-06 Springfield, 600 rounds of 30 caliber carbine and

500 rounds of .22 caliber long rifle. That was one purchase. It did not include the .223 Remington, and 30-30 Winchester I bought from commercial outlets. Nor does it include 1200 rounds of shotgun shells I use each year. It is not unusual real serious target shooter go through 3 or 4 times that amount in a year. My club is small. We only have 250 people. Those who are championship level shooters, shoot almost everyday. They can go through 50,000 rounds in a year. There is simply no way to pick through the millions of people who buy large amounts of ammo in order to find the 1 or 2 people who are planning an act of mayhem each year.

In terms of having permits registration for rifles or shotguns. There no indication that this would lower murder rates. More people are murdered with knives and bare hands in the state then killed with rifles and shotguns combined. It cost a lot money to put in place, and will do little. Canada had a permit and registry for all rifles and shotguns. They scrapped it. It was too expense and had no effect on crime. Long guns are not used in crimes very often.

Now lets look at mass murders. They are increasing right? Nope ! They been declining since they peaked 1920's during prohibition. What did change was invention of 24/7 cable news cycle. Stories that would been 30 sec. segment on the old nightly national tv news are now covered all day long and nation wide stories for days at a time. Only local newspapers would have covered the story in any detail. At this point I am going add an article from Slate.com I fact checked it. Its correct.

Going Postal, Pre-Pistol

How did mass murderers operate before the advent of modern weapons?

By Brian Palmer|Posted Thursday, July 26, 2012, at 3:49 PM ET

The shooting spree that killed 12 people in an Aurora, Colo., movie theater on Friday has sparked a public debate about the availability of automatic weapons. Gun control advocates argue that mass murder is exceedingly difficult without them. One source told the Washington Post, "It's kind of hard to be a pseudo-commando with a musket in the 18th century." How did people commit mass murder before the advent of automatic weapons?

Often with fire. Revolutionary War veteran Barnett Davenport is widely

considered the first mass murderer in U.S. history. On the evening of Feb. 3, 1780, Davenport burst into the bedroom of his employer, Caleb Mallory, and began to bludgeon Mallory and his wife with a club. When the club broke in two, Davenport beat the couple to death with Mallory's gun. If Davenport had stopped there, he would be remembered as just an ordinary killer; most criminologists define mass murder as the killing of at least three people in a single incident. After beating the Mallorys to death, however, Davenport burned the house down, killing their three grandchildren.

Hundreds of other mass murderers have perpetrated their crimes without automatic firearms. Frenchman Pierre Riviere killed his mother, sister, and brother with a bill hook in 1835. In 1932, Julian Marcelino, a Filipino immigrant of relatively small stature, managed to kill six and wound 15 on a Seattle street using only a pair of blades. In 1915, Monroe Phillips shot seven dead and wounded 32 with a shotgun in Georgia.

Guns aren't even the most lethal mass murder weapon. According to data compiled by Grant Duwe of the Minnesota Department of Corrections, guns killed an average of 4.92 victims per mass murder in the United States during the 20th century, just edging out knives, blunt objects, and bare hands, which killed 4.52 people per incident. Fire killed 6.82 people per mass murder, while explosives far outpaced the other options at 20.82. Of the 25 deadliest mass murders in the 20th century, only 52 percent involved guns.

The U.S. mass murder rate does not seem to rise or fall with the availability of automatic weapons. It reached its highest level in 1929, when fully automatic firearms were expensive and mostly limited to soldiers and organized criminals. The rate dipped in the mid-1930s, staying relatively low before surging again in the 1970s through 1990s. Some criminologists attribute the late-century spike to the potential for instant notoriety: Beginning with Charles Whitman's 1966 shooting spree from atop a University of Texas tower, mass murderers became household names. Others point out that the mass murder rate fairly closely tracks the overall homicide rate. In the 2000s, for example, both the mass murder and the homicide rates dropped to their lowest levels since the 1960s.

A mass murderer's weapon of choice depends somewhat on his victims. Attacks with guns, fire, knives, and bare hands are far more likely to be directed against family and acquaintances than total strangers, while mass murderers prefer to use explosives against people they don't know. Also of note: Those who use firearms in a killing spree turn the gun on themselves 34 percent of the time, while only 9

percent of mass-murdering arsonists take their own lives.

Explainer thanks Grant Duwe, author of *Mass Murder in the United States: A History*, and Stephen T. Holmes of the University of Central Florida, co-author of *Mass Murder in the United States*.

If you look at recent mass murders in Connecticut. The first was the Connecticut Lottery Shooting. Details to refresh your memory are here. <http://tinyurl.com/bke4bwf> There does seem to have been places where this could have intervened on. There were at least 2 suicide attempts. That should have got his pistol permit pulled. Cromwell Police failed to follow on one of his suicide threats. Even if he did not have the pistol. Considering he used a knife there may well have still been a murder. Mass murderers have been done with knives.

The Hartford Distributors shooting, and here a link to refresh your memory. <http://tinyurl.com/3c2ysog> In this case, it was avoidable. This employee was caught on tape stealing. Had this been referred for criminal prosecution instead of fired/resigning meeting, he would have been arrested and his permit would have been turned up. The guns would have been removed under the current law. This was avoidable too.

In 2003 a mentally ill drug addict named Lesley Andino was placed in the Greenwood Manor Nursing home. She set a fire that killed 16. This was avoidable too by placing her in a mental hospital. We closed most of them in the 1990's. No one called for a ban on bic lighters.

If it turns out to be true that Lanza tried to buy a gun in Danbury but did not want to have a background check done or have the waiting period. That should have been a red flag. He should have been referred to police. Given how little contact Lanza appears to have had with the outside world, this may have been the only time you could have stopped it. If the police showed up to question him, he probably would have panicked.

Looking at the high profile cases I wanted to include this one written by Bill Jerrett of West Haven, Connecticut and used with his permission. I fact checked this and everything Mr. Jerrett claimed, it is factually accurate.

“WAKE UP!-I'm reposting this from earlier to EXPOSE this FACT, and HOPEFULLY get some more debate on the SOURCE of the PROBLEM: In 1957 there were over 500,000 institutionalized in State Mental Institutions and we had reasonable involuntary commitment laws. We had no modern "gun control" laws, could buy your M1 Carbine through the mail along with all the 30 round

magazines you wanted- yet mass random shootings NEVER HAPPENED! Was 1957 America a police state? Doctors and judges made the decision who to keep in the loony bin, and they could not get out until they were no longer a threat to self or a public threat. You still had the rights to a lawyer and judge to prove your sanity and get out if there was no basis for the decision. Today we have emptied and closed the State Mental Institutions, created the homeless population, made involuntary commitment impossible until AFTER you commit a crime- and then try and blame guns for the actions of the mental patients! Jared Laughner- parents tried to get him help at least twice but were turned down for lack of insurance, neighbors said he would ride around on his bike talking to himself, school said he was unbalanced, had him EXPELLED for his irrational disruptive behavior- in the PAST he would have been institutionalized long before he shot Gabby based on his obvious illness! Virginia Tech- school teachers said he was unbalanced- in the PAST he would have been institutionalized based on his obvious behavior! Colorado- His college psychiatrist was so alarmed by Holmes that she had him banned from the campus, but nothing else. Colorado media, including the Denver Post, reported last month that Fenton rejected a law enforcement offer to involuntarily confine Holmes for 72 hours after he told her six weeks before the shooting that he fantasized about killing "a lot of people." In the PAST- she could have had him involuntarily committed BEFORE he hurt anyone, you didn't have to wait until they were an imminent threat to themselves or others! What was even the POINT of him trying to get help from the psychiatrist when all she did was ban him from the school? Even Charles Whitman in 1966, the first of these crazed mass shooters warned authorities before hand by seeking help from Texas University's school psychiatrist- repeatedly! He had severe migraine headaches and extreme anger that HE knew was irrational, turned out he had a BRAIN TUMOR- discovered AFTER his death! He even told his psychiatrist he was fantasizing about shooting people from the tower! If his school psychiatrist had remotely done his job he would have gotten the help he sought. To this day Texas University won't release all of Whitman's medical records, claiming the deceased "right to privacy"- so the school won't be SUED! Newtown CT- Mother was so scared of her son she told sitters not to turn their backs on him even if they went to the bathroom, was in the process of being able to have him committed, but with him not having committed a crime involuntary commitment is virtually impossible and there is no where to send him. In the State of Connecticut you cannot even use someone's past history of violence or past psychiatric history against them in an involuntary commitment case. 40 years ago he would have been institutionalized in a State Mental Institution based on his behavior. You know where the largest State Mental Institution in Connecticut is? NEWTOWN- its been CLOSED for DECADES!"

Now lets look at suicide. Many people that advocate gun control laws say that it would prevent suicides. It won't. Suicides are planned for hours, days, weeks or months before they are carried out in most cases. The thought process is first you decide you want to die, then you decide how to do it. Suicide attempts fall into two types; high lethal methods, like shooting, hanging, jumping etc. and low lethal methods, like cutting wrists, overdoses etc. I have never any valid scholarly study that shows someone will move from a high lethal method to a low lethal methods based on gun availability. They move to another high lethal method. The way you lower suicide rates its intervene and treat people before they get to the point of a crisis.

Some people say that guns on campus will not make people safer. The Pearl High School shooting was stopped in progress by Vice Principal Joel Myrick who ran to his car off campus and got Colt Model 1911 .45 caliber pistol from the glove box. He used it subdue the shooter at gun point. The Appalachian School of Law shooting, two students retrieved pistol and a revolver from their cars. The subdued the gunman at gun point, no shots fired. This past week in Atlanta an armed guard stopped school shooting progress again, with no shots fired. At Columbine High a Sheriff was assigned to the school. He was outside the building when it started. He did engaged the 2 shooters in a fire fight. That bought time for the students to escape. Its why the death toll was only 13 with 2 shooters.

I have no special knowledge of school security. But it seems to me you need security in layers. An armed guard or police is good move with along passive security system and procedures. Newtown had the passive security. A sally port on the main entrance makes sense. I also think the concept of "gun free school zones" needs to be tossed in trash. This policy tells anyone who wants to commit an evil act they know that they have 5 to 15 minutes to commit mayhem before the police can arrive. No one in the building will be able to return fire. I have no problem with trained school staff having concealed carry of a firearm or pepper spray. After all we trust them with the kids already. If they not trust worthy, they should not be working with our kids in the first place. While teachers likely prefer not to carry, I am sure there are some retired military who are teachers or on staff. We could also set a program to encourage retired military to enter education with things like tuition discounts. After all they already ARE teachers, that what noncommissioned officer do with most of their time. They teach skill to recruits. If you do not want a firearm on the teacher person you could have a few wall mounted thumb print access gun safes with a shotgun in it placed in building. Same concept as fire extinguisher. Simply leaving them defenseless is fool hardy. The odds of shooter in a school is greater than the chance of being hit by lighting. But lighting does strike. We have to be prepared.

Now on to video games and violent movies. I do think video games can desensitize people to aim at a human and pull the trigger. The Army uses these as training. I have been unable to find any scholarly study to find a direct link to video games and real violence. Same hold true with violent movies no direct causal link. But the same token if you have a person who becoming psychotic it certainly doesn't help. Psychotic people and murders predate video games and movies.

Now the 800 pound elephant in the room, mental health. Fairfield Hills State Hospital closed in 1995. It had 4000 beds. Norwich State Hospital closed in 1996. It had 3000 beds. Cedarcrest Regional Hospital has 128 beds. It was closed in 2010. Connecticut Valley Hospital has Whiting forensic division consists of 106 maximum-security beds and 141 enhanced-security beds. Connecticut Valley has 25 building that are closed. Riverview State Hospital is Teen psych ward. It has 100 beds. We have no inpatient psychiatric capacity anymore. The some private hospital like Elmcrest are closed as well. There a handful of private psych hospitals The Institute of Living Silver Hills etc.

Now lets be clear on the this, most people with a mental illness are not a threat to anyone. They pose no danger to general public. They more likely to be a victim crime than a criminal themselves. They are more likely to hurt themselves than anyone else. Most can safely live in community and there no need stigmatize them. In the mental health laws, we have a walk a fine line between patient rights, effective treatment, people willingness to seek treatment and protecting society. There are some exceptions. Some personality disorders, like borderline personality disorder, and anti social personality disorder can be dangerous. Michael Ross the last person we put to death is an example someone with anti social personality disorder.

There are also people who are paranoid, psychotic or delusional. Some of these people can be dangerous. Many are Schizophrenics. They often will go off meds that keep them from being psychotic. They self medicate street drugs. They often end up homeless. When their behavior get out of control, they end up in a hospital or a jail. They get back on meds and return to sanity. Then they get released and the cycle starts again. These are the type who are too sick to know how sick they actually are. For a small number of these people we should be able to to have, if a doctor, a conservator and probate judge agrees, have the option of compulsory meds or long term inpatient treatment.

Here in condos I live in, we had a unit owner who put his nephew, a paranoid Schizophrenic, his apartment. He regularly went off his anti psychotic meds. He would start using heroin and crack. We had numerous complaints about bizarre behavior. Every now and then he would get back on meds normally after contact with police or state social worker. One time he carved the word the "bitch" into the door of a woman who complained about him. At one point, police were called

because people heard a woman screaming in his apartment. He refused to open the door. The police broke the door down. There was no woman in there, but it did take over 8 minutes for them to arrive. She could have ran and gotten out. The woman he tended to have in his apartment where mostly drug addicts. They do not hang around for the police to arrive. He was found clutching a very large kitchen knife. He was arrested, then sent to Cedarcrest where he was stabilized and released. The condominium association clearly told the unit owner with a 3rd arrest we would have force evict him around the owner. This same thing we did with the crack houses. He came back and went off his meds. He starting threatening his neighbor. He was banging on her door, screaming and stacking garbage in front of it. There was a third arrest. The unit owner agreed to not let him come back to the unit in order avoid the legal expense. In total, it dragged on for 3 years. The last I heard he was living in apartment by himself in East Hartford. This is an example of someone who needed to be medicated even if he did not want it. If he refused he should be committed to mental hospital.

Next civil commitment laws. At one point in time it was easy to get someone committed to mental hospital on 15 day paper. Now its way too hard to get someone committed. I have brought suicidal people to the Uconn Med Center and had them released with a promise to go to outpatient treatment and prescription 10 hours later. Right now to get someone committed they need to be imminent threat to themselves or others. By imminent its like you already have the noose tied or sharpening the knife before an assault. Using a massive amount of drugs doesn't count. It has to be that day. If its the day before its too far in the past. It really is ridiculous that we need to wait till it gets to that point before we can act. The standard should a danger to self or others period. Using large amounts of drugs or alcohol should count as many times addicts are masking an underlying mental illness. This is called a dual diagnosis. The medical profession should err on side of safety. The probate court supervises these. They can check if its a mistake, then order the person released. If was unfounded, that is what civil courts, trial lawyers and malpractice insurance are for.

The people at colleges of James Holmes, Jared Loughner knew they dangerous but opted to kick them out of school rather than seek to have them committed. Seung-Hui Cho was declared imminent danger to himself by a court and he not sent inpatient treatment which would have prevented him buying the guns, they sent outpatient instead which was not sent to NICS system. All three of these were avoidable. Now in this state we have no beds to send them if we could get people committed. This is one of the problems.

Next when do many major mental illness onset? Mostly its age 16 to 24 years old. Now when you turn 18 your parents have no input and can not force you into treatment. This is even if you are economically dependent on the parent. Maybe the

age of majority should be moved back to age 21 for psychiatric medical treatment. If the child still on the family health insurance the parent should have some input into the treatment even they can not make the final chooses. Simple concept if you pay the fiddler you can request a tune. HIPPA has to change.

There one thing I would like to point out that two people with Asperger's syndrome in Connecticut attempted a mass murder in December of 2012. The Casper College murders also was done by a person with Asperger's . That attack was carried out with a bow and arrow and knives.

He tried to buy a gun. He was unable to through legal channels.

The offender traveled from Vernon Ct. to Casper Wyoming to launch his attack upon his father, his lover and his students. Someone needs to look and see if there some common thread that can be identified. I did find one very small scholarly study that has a correlation between Asperger's syndrome combined with a major mental illness producing violent behavior. People with Autism often act out when frustrated. It is a very small sample. I might also want to remind you a teen with Asperger's syndrome fired a gun in the general direction of some teens he was angry at in park in Brooklyn CT. His name is Alexander Romanchuk. A reporter for Norwich Bulletin was covering the story needed and to know what Asperger's syndrome was, 10 minutes before deadline. He found me on allexperts. I tried to tell him he should ask an MD or Ph.D. not BA. He ended up quoting me anyway.

Finally when people have their first mental health crisis 5 day inpatient stays are not long enough. Psych meds often a week or two to take effect. It takes time to work family and friends into treatment and support plan. Often people can fake and hide things for a short periods of time, but can not hide their behavior for a few 3 or 4 weeks. If you truly get a patient stabilized the first time , its less likely they end up going from crisis to crisis and from the ER to ER. You need to do it right the first time. Private insurance will not pay for this. We need to return to having state mental hospitals.

The next topic I want to touch quickly, is treatment for alcohol and drug addiction. We closed most of those inpatient programs as well. If you show up looking for treatment, you likely will be put on waiting list unless it is court ordered. Many people are just detoxed and referred to outpatient treatment. Since the triggers for relapse are people, places and things in your environment, sending someone right back to the same place doesn't work. They need time and distance to get stabilized. Most insurance will no longer pay for treatment of 28 days or more. If you are truly desperate for treatment and want it right now, this what you need to do. Drink pint of vodka in about 15 minutes, pop a few pills like xanax. Then walk into the ER and tell them you want to die and you took just an overdose. You are too dangerously drunk to be let go. They have to pump your stomach to get the pills out before they can take effect.

They have to wait till you are sober to determine how serious is the suicide attempt. Once sober you need to continue to tell them you want to die. Then tell them another way your going to kill yourself, preferably using a high lethal method like shooting or hanging once you get out. Then you get admitted. So you lied about being suicidal, oh well. Congratulation you just gamed the system to get into treatment. This is pathetic that this happens. Only state hospitals can address this problem.

The sources of inner city violence. Mayor John DeStefano, who I agree with on not much, framed the problem perfectly. The root cause of this is out of wedlock births combined with mental illness, alcoholism, or drug use by the single mothers. The family gets highly dysfunctional. The child often the bounce around grandparents and other places like foster homes. What street gangs do for at risk youth is give them the feeling of family they do not have. Peer pressure can also be a factor in kids joining. They start at age 13 or 14 and often harden criminals by age 16. They see easy drug dealing as a way the out of their miserable life, with sex as a bonus. Gangsta Culture is gloried it and it denigrate education real jobs. Most murders in the city are drug related. In parts of cities the people who live there are afraid of the gangs because, after all, snitches get stitches. They do not trust police either. Its why most of the violence in Hartford is in 12 block by 12 block area just North of Downtown. Nobody see's nothing. I have seen it first police ride a longs. If we could find a solution to gang violence, our murder rate would be below that in Canada. But its not easy to solve.

This is part why requiring insurance to own a firearm is a bad idea. If you are poor you may be able to come up with \$50 to \$75 to buy an old shotgun. Its a lot harder for gangs to intimidate people if they are armed. People say nothing when their only protection is the police who they do not really trust and are 5 to 15 minutes away. Its also why ammo tax is a bad idea as well. The people who are purposing think they can price people out owning firearms. In fact every NRA member gets liability insurance as part of the \$35 membership. The fact is 99.9% of all firearm ever made, have never been involved a criminal act of any type. Thus actuaries set the risk as very low, so its dirt cheap. Maybe you people should research things before purposing them.

Furthermore requiring a party to liable for the actions of the 2nd or 3rd party's actions, are unconstitutional. Trying to make a gun owner liable if the weapon is stolen and used in crime is no different then this scenario. You leave your car running as you run into 7-11 for a pack of cigarettes. A thief takes your car, and knocks over a package store. The police chase the thief resulting in him crashing into a school bus. 26 people are killed in the crash. While the car owner may really stupid in leaving the car running, he would not be responsible or liable for the actions of the criminal. Its just not the way our system works. Like it or not, the

car owners is a victim, not the criminal. By the same token you can not sue Ford Motor Co. because someone got hurt because of a drunk driving accident. Now if Ford Motor Co. makes a car that say the breaks fail on, you can sue them over it being a defective product. Now if a gun maker, makes a gun that blows up when you fire it, you can sue them for making a defective product. However, if criminal uses a gun in crime you can not sue the gun maker how the products used.

I have lived in a condo I have owned since 1987. It is in the deep south end of Hartford. It was quiet area no different East Hartford or Enfield. This is a another case of unintended consequences. Once Charter Oak Terrace and Dutch point were emptied out, those people were moved all over the city via section 8 housing vouchers. Four former Charter Oak tenants ended up in my condo complex. All 4 were operating crack houses. If you do not know how it works. I will explain it; someone with an apartment who wants to party invites a dealer in to use the property in exchange for some drugs or sex from prostitutes. They often need to allow others get high in the apartment as well. Its that simple.

We started calling the police. Tried to get Hartford Areas Rally Together to help us. They were no help. One person told us we should buy crack leave it in front of one crack houses doors, then call the police. We had over \$50,000.00 worth of damage to common areas of the building. We had non stop prostitution, break ins, robberies and much of it was the type crimes against people who do not report crimes. Addicts, prostitutes, johns, drug dealer etc. At one point, I heard a woman scream followed a whistle blowing. I called 911. Went down to meet the police and we found nothing. At which point, the patrolman screamed at me and threatened to arrest me for making false 911 calls. Well I found out the next day what happened from someone who had seen it, I only heard it. The boyfriend snuck up behind her and grabbed her. She panicked, screamed and blew into her rape whistle. When she realized who it was they walked away together. I ended up writing the office of the Chief of Police reminding him of the murder of Kitty Genovese in NYC in 1964. Dozens of people heard her screams for help. No one helped. I will NOT let a person be hurt if I can stop it. They sent patrolman to apologize. While all this was going on we actually had the police lieutenant tell us the the problem we were having was not bad enough to devote more resources to it. This was at public meeting with at the them at Metzler Center.

Did I mention the naked man in the hallway who was in a crack and pcg induced psychotic state? We were at wits end! Then there was an attempted hostile corporate take over in the underworld. That is a prostitute in exchange for crack, arranged for a drug dealer to be shot by another dealer. He wanted to take over the drug turf. He victim survived, it was an infamous case. At the trial the victim plead the 5th on witness stand, and the shooter cut a deal.

Our property values dropped to \$5000. That is not a typo. Our homes were worth less than old used car. There was a drive by shooting on corner of South St. and Wethersfield Ave. That was not an attempted murder. They shot the 2 guys with number 9 bird shot. Hurts like hell and makes bloody mess but not likely to kill ya. It was bill collector's notice in the underworld. I was 15 feet away from it when it happened. I was walking to the mail box.

Then we finally had a murder also in unit that we had called the police about repeatedly. A woman stabbed a man 5 times. She claimed he fell into broken a mirror. She is vacationing in Niantic. There another man that was hanging out in that unit. He was small time dealer, like two brothers. He was murdered in Newington with a knife. He was holding video game as collateral on drug deal. That was issue that lead to his murder. btw his other brother committed suicide by hanging before this. The brother us still dealing and in and out of jail.

In all honesty, the police and courts did not solve our problems. We ended up forcing bad absentee owners to sell and evicted those tenants who running the crack houses. We just displaced the problem somewhere else. Maybe we should stop subsidizing people who run crack houses. We tried talking to section 8/ Imagineers. It fell on deaf ears. Just saying, it might be a start. You also need to take serious look at the people committing minor crimes. NY City put a lot of crime in check with the broken window strategy. It turns out the small crimes are committed by the same people who commit the big crimes.

Now let me explain how the court system handles the cases when the police actually do make an arrest. A woman I went to high school with was arrested for 2 counts of armed robbery. She plead guilty to one count and sentenced to 7 years in prison. She was released to halfway house after 18 months. She broke parole and was on the run for 2 years. She was involved assaults, prostitution and thiefs the whole time she was out. She got caught when she gave birth at Hartford Hospital to her 5th child. It was a crack baby. They sent her back to prison for 18 more months. No additional time or new charges for breaking parole. Then sent her to half way house again. She walked away again. This time while on the run, she cashed a forged check. They actually looked for her and caught her after about 6 months. They gave her 18 more months on the original charges. They dropped the check charges and added no additional time or charges for breaking parole. Then her original sentence maxed out, I do not know what happened after she was released.

There was drug dealer/pimp/career criminal, who was nicked named Honest Steve. He stole money out of his 4th grade teachers purse. He swore it wasn't him even though he had his lunch money and the exact amount of money the teacher was missing. He was an excon on parole who got caught with crack packaged for sale and a gun. He was sentenced to 10 years, he was out in less than 3 years. Right now going prison

for short periods of time is just a cost of doing business. They know how to game the system. Yet the State House passes laws like the early release programs that actually has a body count on it almost right away. You need to stop the having all carrot and no stick approach. There should be consequences for going out of compliance parole probation or court ordered drug programs.

I had unsettling experience of having been waiting in line at convenience store behind a pair of crack heads who were talking about front page of the Hartford Courant. Apparently they were freaked out because they were getting high with Steven Hayes a few days before the Petit murders. Right near where I live. Make no mistake the nonviolent drug offenders finance and fuel the violence.

In the 1950s and 1960's we went from a punishment model of criminal justice to more of a rehabilitation model of criminal justice. The theory was that all human beings are basically good and just need to see the error of their ways. We could rehabilitate them and then return to society. Prior to establishing the Department Corrections in 1968 we simply had prisons. We spent little to nothing on them. There were prison farms and/or had prison industries like furniture making. They were more or less self supporting. Prisoners learned job skills by working and got a small amount of money for personal needs. In looking at crime stats from 1945 to 2010 I see no evidence changing the model did anything but cost us a lot of money. Money that would have been better spent on mental health system. There are career criminals who commit most of the crime. You can't reform them. 1/6 of the prison population are mentally ill. Not long ago most of them would be hospitalized before committing crimes. Maybe we might think about returning to what worked for 150 years.

Now on to the US Constitution and the Federalist Papers. Few American have read the US Constitution in whole. The schools failed educate the general public on this. I went through k-12 in public schools and 2 years college at a state university never had been assigned to read it.

Here it is <http://tinyurl.com/yqm97q> Its only 3 pages. Now when the Constitution was purposed it initially unexceptable. The Bill of Rights were added to give protection to the people from the government. While the debate about passage of the Constitution was going on John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison wrote a series of essays about the Constitution known as Federalist Papers. These amount to an owners manual for the US Constitution. Here they are to used as a reference. <http://tinyurl.com/ycr5ud8> The Federalist Papers that apply to the the 2nd amendment are Federalist 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 all written by Hamilton. The one directly with the militia is Federalist 29.

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fed_29.html

Madison addressed it in Federalist 46.

<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa46.htm>

They founders were crystal clear on what the militia is and why its needed. There were actually discussions about requiring everyone to own arms. Here a sampling of thoughts on this from 1787 to 1959 by founders, academics and statesman.

"I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials." — George Mason, in Debates in Virginia Convention on Ratification of the Constitution, Elliot, Vol. 3, June 16, 1788

"What, Sir, is the use of a militia? It is to prevent the establishment of a standing army, the bane of liberty Whenever Governments mean to invade the rights and liberties of the people, they always attempt to destroy the militia, in order to raise an army upon their ruins."

-- Rep. Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, spoken during floor debate over the Second Amendment, I Annals of Congress at 750, August 17, 1789

From a Connecticut Native

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States. A military force, at the command of Congress, can execute no laws, but such as the people perceive to be just and constitutional; for they will possess the power, and jealousy will instantly inspire the inclination, to resist the execution of a law which appears to them unjust and oppressive."

--Noah Webster, An Examination of the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution (Philadelphia 1787)

"The militia is the natural defense of a free country against sudden foreign invasions, domestic insurrections, and domestic usurpation of power by rulers. The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of the republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally ... enable the people to resist and triumph over them."

-- Joseph Story, Supreme Court Justice, Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States, p. 3:746-7, 1833

"The right [to bear arms] is general. It may be supposed from the phraseology of

this provision that the right to keep and bear arms was only guaranteed to the militia; but this would be an interpretation not warranted by the intent. The militia, as has been explained elsewhere, consists of those persons who, under the laws, are liable to the performance of military duty, and are officered and enrolled for service when called upon.... [I]f the right were limited to those enrolled, the purpose of the guarantee might be defeated altogether by the action or the neglect to act of the government it was meant to hold in check. The meaning of the provision undoubtedly is, that the people, from whom the militia must be taken, shall have the right to keep and bear arms, and they need no permission or regulation of law for the purpose. But this enables the government to have a well regulated militia; for to bear arms implies something more than mere keeping; it implies the learning to handle and use them in a way that makes those who keep them ready for their efficient use; in other words, it implies the right to meet for voluntary discipline in arms, observing in so doing the laws of public order."
-- Thomas M. Cooley, General Principles of Constitutional Law, Third Edition [1898]

"Certainly one of the chief guarantees of freedom under any government, no matter how popular and respected, is the right of citizens to keep and bear arms ... The right of citizens to bear arms is just one guarantee against arbitrary government, one more safeguard, against the tyranny which now appears remote in America but which historically has proven to be always possible."
-- Hubert H. Humphrey, Senator, Vice President, 22 October 1959

Now many people say that tyranny can never happen here. Well it almost did in 1933. Some American industrialists, politicians, and veterans that included Irénée du Pont (chemical industrialist and founder of the American Liberty League, owner of the Remington Arms Company) , Grayson Murphy (Director of Goodyear, Bethlehem Steel and a group of J.P. Morgan banks.) , William Doyle (state commander of the American Legion) , John Davis (Former Democratic presidential candidate), Al Smith (former governor of New York and a codirector of the American Liberty League), John J. Raskob (high-ranking Du Pont officer and a former chairman of the Democratic Party) , Robert Clark (stockbrokers) , and Gerald MacGuire (former commander of the Connecticut American Legion) were plotting to attempt a coup to remove FDR from office. They intended use veterans to march on Washington DC, just as Mussolini had marched on Rome. They would then install a fascist government in the USA. Fascism was working great in Italy, good economy, low crime and trains ran on time, since 1922. They recruited US Marine Corps Major General Smedley Butler a charismatic two time Congressional Metal of Honor winner to lead an army of 500,000 war veterans

from the American Legion. Butler played along for a short time, then exposed the plot. Details are here. <http://tinyurl.com/655rm> Congress had the McCormack-Dickstein Special Committee on Un-American Activities hold hearing. They never called any of the major plotters. The plot was quietly swept under the rug. There were attempts to smear and discredit Butler. When all the testimony was made public in 1967, the plot was very real and close being ready to be launched. They picked wrong person to lead it. Butler had sworn to uphold the Constitution and was American patriot.

The New York Times Editorial Board said the committee "purported to report that a two-month investigation had convinced it that General Butler's story of a fascist march on Washington was alarmingly true" and "It also alleged that definite proof had been found that the much publicized Fascist march on Washington, which was to have been led by Major. Gen. Smedley D. Butler, retired, according to testimony at a hearing, was actually contemplated. Do not be foolish enough to think it can not happen here.

Now a brief history lesson. In the aftermath of the US Civil War, it became really apparent that the Union Army, who drew much of its man power from industrialized Northern cities; were at a huge disadvantage in the early days of the war. When compared with rural recruits from the South, the Confederate recruits were far more experienced with rifles. The Union Army lost battles even with superior force size and better equipment. Union veterans gathered in 1871 to form a group to teach shooting skills to civilians and sanction match competition to encourage practice. They wanted to avoid the slaughter when the next war came about. Ulysses S. Grant was first president of this group. He was followed by Major General Philip Sheridan. This group is National Rifle Association.

Now we move ahead to the Spanish American war in 1898. When war was declared we mobilized the federal troops and state militias were called federal service. Basically all our military capacity was sent to Cuba and Philippines. In an after action review we realized that the US was vulnerable to invasion, in the homeland while Army and state militia was overseas. When troops returned many were sick malaria. This led to Militia Act of 1903. This divided the militia into 2 parts. The first part was organized militia, which formed the National Guard. The National Guard could be called to action by the state governors; however it could also be called to federal service by the US President. The second part was the unorganized militia. The unorganized militia can be called by only the Governors. It consists men 17 to 45 and not already in service. It also includes those with prior military training up to age 65. Sec 313 Title 32 of the US Code. The Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) was created by the U.S. Congress as part of the 1903 War Department Appropriations Act. The original purpose was to provide civilians an opportunity to learn and practice marksmanship skills so

they would be skilled marksmen if later called on to serve in the U.S. military. On top of that, most civilian who could shoot, used to lever action rifles. They needed to be taught to operate a bolt action military rifle.

Article 1 - The Legislative Branch Section 8 - Powers of Congress.....To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

See the government *IS* required to train and arm the militia. As it always has it provided military arms to general population via sales of surplus arms. Millions of Springfield and Harpers Ferry Muskets, Springfield Rifled Muskets, Trap Door Springfields, .30-40 Krag, 1903 Springfields, 1917 Enfields, M1 Garands, M1 Carbines and even some M-14 have been sold to the people. These are not military type weapons, they are actual military arms.

The DCM partnered with the National Rifle Association to establish service rifle competition to train people how to operate military rifles. There are also pistol other events in the competition. These matches were carried out on the local and state level through NRA/DCM affiliated gun clubs. Then each year there are National Matches where members of the military and civilians compete against each other. They have been held at Camp Perry Ohio since 1907. In 1990's DCM became Civilian Marksmanship Program.

It still organizes matches, sells rifles, parts and ammunition.

<http://www.odcmp.com/>

Currently Service rifle matches *REQUIRE* you use either an M1 Garand, an M-14/or civilian M1A or an M-16/or civilian AR-15. This done for reason. It trains people to use military rifle and limits thing to 3 caliber's of rifles. 30-06, .308/7.62 Nato and .223 Remington/5.56 Nato that are commonly available. If you had to call up the unorganized militia it would be a logistical nightmare to try to resupply them if everyone showed up with a different caliber rifle, pistol or shotgun. Right now 4 rimfire rounds, 6 shotgun gauges, over 40 handgun caliber's and over 100 rifle caliber's that is currently in production.

In moving forward, the US Government Armories like Springfield Armory were closed in 1968. No M1 Garand rifles have been made since 1956. No new ammo has ordered since late 1970's. At some point in foreseeable future the M1 Garand will be declared obsolete. That will leave you with only M-14/or civilian M1A or an M-16/or civilian AR-15 with the .308/7.62 Nato and .223 Remington/5.56 Nato chambering. Since we do not sell select fire M-14 main battle rifles or the select fire M-16 assault rifle to public, it leaves only the

semiautomatic M1a and AR-15 type rifles available. Trying to ban them would harm our 3 tiered national defense structure. That would be foolish. Those calling for gun bans do not know any of this information.

Now we know what the militia is, how we train it and what it uses what as weapons. Now lets look at the legal major case regarding firearms. You have United States v. Miller in 1939. The entire case is here if you wish to read it in context. <http://tinyurl.com/7w5hnrn> (I am using Cornell law website) The question at hand in Miller was is a sawed off shotgun protected under the 2nd amendment. The court found that because a sawed off shotgun has sort effective range it has no real military application. Thus it's not protected under the 2nd amendment. This established that the type of arms that are protected are military arms. This was basically a tax case. Can you prosecute someone for not buying a federal tax stamp on arm without military use? They also held that tax stamps had to be available for the weapons covered by The National Firearms Act of 1934. You see machine guns were never banned. That would have violation of 2nd Amendment. They required you to buy a \$200 tax stamp and file a bunch of paper work with BATF. Initially they refused to make any tax stamps. Not making making stamps was held as unconstitutional. If you wondering what a tax stamp is, at bottom of pack cigarettes. There are tax stamp on every pack. I tried to find if there are any cases of criminal use of legal machine gun in a violent crime. I found one since 1934 in the entire nation. It was owned by policemen. All the other arrest where related to tax issues or paper work problems.

Next we have DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA et al. v. HELLER in 2008. The details of the case are here. <http://tinyurl.com/nqm9en> The question at hand is, are handguns protected under 2nd amendment. DC had banned handguns inside the city. The court decided that handguns do have military use and thus are protected under the 2nd Amendment. They did find there can be some laws related to firearms ownership, but banning of class of weapon is unconstitutional. The also held that it is individual right. Some gun control advocate quoted a single line from Justice Scalia out context to support their claims. You can read it in context here. <http://tinyurl.com/qm6s77> Its meaning in context is far different.

The third case was McDonald v Chicago in 2010. The key question here is does the 2nd amendment apply to state and local governments. The details of the case are here. <http://tinyurl.com/apfd336> The Court re-affirmed the individual right in Heller case and held the 2nd amendment did in fact apply to state and local governments.

With all that said, should the state of Connecticut pass new draconian gun control laws including banning of certain types of weapons, and magazines? This is not 1993/94 when the first "assault weapons bans" were put in place. Those were never challenged in federal courts. At that time gun control advocates were arguing

that the 2nd amendment was a collective right and not individual right. People were a bit leery of testing this. The Supreme Court rejected that in Heller. It also rejected the idea you can ban classes of weapons of would be of use to the militia. It's logical to assume accouterments like magazines are also protected. You can pass a ban on the manufacture, sale of and possession of so called "assault weapons"? Yes you can. It will be challenged in federal court this time. The state will spend a huge sum of money it doesn't have, to defend it. Based on Miller Heller and McDonald you will lose. On top that, you will hurt the gun manufacturers in the state. For example Stag Arms and Colt may pick up and leave. We will lose jobs and tax dollars from one of few industries that actually growing right now in this state. This is a lose/lose situation. Plus as I noted earlier based what happened you did not solving the problem. You still have a manic with a gun shooting up a school. There no indication that rifles have a crime problem in the past other than one single incident.

The proposal that all gun sales require a permit would also likely be challenged in federal court. Owning a gun is an individual right. It's not a privilege like driving a car. There is no precedent for the requirement prior permission to excursive an enumerated individual constitutional right. Imagine if you had to get permit to get an abortion? What would stop a permit being required to use your right to free speech, run a news story or to attend a church? None of that would fly legally. You likely can require a permit to to carry a handgun loaded on your person in public places. But based on Heller requiring a permit simply to purchase to have in your home or to transport it unloaded in case, probably is already unconstitutional. It simply has not been challenged in federal court yet. Connecticut's may issue permit system with vague "suitability" requirement that is subjective and up to a local police chief is probably unconstitutional. It too has not been challenged in federal court. If was you meet the age requirement, have no felony convictions, no certain misdemeanor convictions, (domestic violence, drug crimes, violent crimes) and no history of involuntary admission to mental hospitals, not adjudicated mentally defective by a court. Submit proof you took the required NRA safety class. Pass the FBI background check by finger prints. Then the permit should be automatically issued. The "suitability" requirement really is a violation of the equal protection clause of the US Constitution. Its how, back in the day, the Reverend Martin Luither King Jr. was denied a permit after this house had been attacked and life was threatened. The good Reverend was deemed unsuitable. There are 36 states that use this format. It has not been a problem.

Limiting gun purchases to 1 permit a month. It would violate the interstate commerce act. There no precedent that an individual right can be limited to how many times you can exercise it per month. What if there was a law where you only had free speech one day a month? It's clearly unconstitutional.

Requiring liability insurance to have a gun. This would be unconstitutional as well. By that standard news outlets and bloggers would need insurance in the event they commit liable or slander. You can require insurance on a car because its a privilege. Owning a gun in an individual right. You do not need insurance for a right.

Requiring private sales of firearms to use NICS system. This could pass constitution muster. I see no harm in doing it. I doubt it will have any effect on crime rates. There are not that private many private sales that do not involve family or friends. Only a fraction of one percent of guns used in crimes came from the “gun show, loop hole”.

In closing, I have seen things that said a majority of the people in this state support new gun control laws. It would be great if we were living in a democracy and had majority rule. However, the USA is not now nor have we ever been a democracy. The founders rejected democracy expressly it because it amounts to mob rule. They gave us a republic, where we live under the rule of law and rights of the individual not subject to whims of the majority. Think about it this way, if the majority wanted to remove the right to vote from black people, could you do it? The answer is hell no you can't do that. You also can't take away the rights of the individual to keep or bear arms in an emotion backlash after a single madman committed a foul and evil act.

While we can tweak the mental laws to catch as many potential problem people before they act out. You can put criminal in prison longer to protect society. There is no way to maniac proof the world. Trying to control an object with not control human behavior, which is ultimately the actual problem. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I know I am a long winded sob, who at times could put Teddy Roosevelt to shame.

Respectfully Yours,

Paul Edward Zukowski

