

This email is to the representatives of the task force for reducing gun violence.

Over the past month since the Newtown shooting, there have been a number of proposals related to limiting and/or banning access and ownership of firearms and ammunition. Many of these proposals do not account for the firearms and ammunition already legally acquired and owned by law abiding CT citizens for recreational use (target shooting and hunting) or personal protection. With the state of New York passing similiar laws and just now understanding the repercussions, the thousands of legal gun owners who have not broken any laws and follow the current letter of the law are now at risk of becoming felons once the new laws are fully implemented.

I would ask that the committee learn from what is happening in New York state and before rushing to enact ANY new gun legislation such as weapon bans and limits on owning firearms and/or ammunition, please consider EVERY unintentional consequence of the laws you are being asked to review. Some of the more extreme laws being submitted for review (such as 1 round only firearms and forced buyback / confiscation) risk making legal gun owners (like me) and legal ownership almost impossible and could empower illegal owenership and use throughout the state.

I believe the best way to curb gun violence in our state is to improve enforement of the laws already in place on people who break current laws. This would address the gang related gun violence seen in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and so on. To directly address the Newtown shooting, no one who intends to inflict harm will be deterred by new and stricter laws. The best options I think we have are stopping someone who desires to do harm before they start.

The Newtown tragedy needs to be addressed with Mental Health and School Safety measures. If someone like this gets past the point where they plan to do harm, its already too late.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my view.