

Dear Senator Looney and Distinguished Working Group Members,

I am writing to you regarding your gun control debate. As a lifetime resident of Connecticut and a parent of three young children, I feel the need to weigh in on the debate.

While the events that took place in Newtown were horrific beyond imagination, I do not believe that more gun control is the answer. The gun was merely the instrument used in this terrible crime and is a symptom of the real problem not the cause of the event. Those guns do not appear to have been legally owned by the assailant. Banning guns of any kind or taxing ammunition would be the equivalent of banning alcohol sales or cars because irresponsible people drive under the influence of alcohol and get into accidents that kill innocent people. I would venture to guess that more people are harmed or killed by drunk drivers than by people who use legally obtained guns to kill.

We need to determine how to solve the root of the problem which appears to be mental illness and social/behavioral issues. As someone who is currently in the process of obtaining a pistol permit, I can attest to the rigor of the process. I cannot imagine anyone who has shown a propensity to violence would be able to obtain a permit to legally possess a weapon in Connecticut.

Please do not make decisions to pass legislation that takes away or further restricts our constitutional rights. The overwhelming majority of us enjoy the sport of shooting and are responsible gun owners.

Respectfully Yours,

Peter Matthews

Sent from my iPhone