

January 28, 2013

Dear Ct Gun Violence Prevention and Children Safety Committee,

I am a gun owner and former member of the NRA. I would like to give you some ideas for sensible firearm control. I was less than impressed with the idea of an armed security guard in each school. There are no longer armed guards in banks, they did not work. They rely on silent alarms with automatic 911 calls.

There was an armed citizen at the shooting where Rep. Gabbie Gifford and 17 others were shot. He could not get off a 'shot' – too many people in the way. At the shooting outside the Empire State building, three train police officers shot at an armed assailant and **hit nine bystanders** as well. The shooting at Fort Hood – there were about 1000 armed soldiers at the fort and they could not prevent the shooting. There was even a security person at the Columbine HS School. The school was too big for him to have any effect. I was a teacher for 34 years, the last 20 at Hall Memorial School in Willington. I had an outside door in my class room. There are 13 outside doors in the school. Where should the security guard/ police officer be stationed? My class room was located in the back of the school - two and one half flights down from the front door and main office. In New Britain the High School has about 75 doors, again where would you station the security guard/s?

I have been a past member of the NRA, until it got way too radical. I am still a certified NRA rifle instructor. I help to teach firearm safety at a scout camp to young scouts. We use single shot 22 cal. rifles to teach firearm safety. I was a junior member of the NRA in the late 50's and early 60s when the NRA main mission was to teach hunter and firearm safety not advocate for the gun lobby.

I own a 30 cal. carbine and 22 cal rifles. The carbine both a 20 shot and 30 shot clip. Most target shooting is at 5 shot targets. I would normally only load and shot 10 shots at a time. I enjoy target shooting as do many others.

I am all in favor of registering all firearms – both hand guns and long rifles. We register drivers, we have social security cards. Both are part of life. Owning a firearm is a serious responsibility, it needs to come with restrictions and limitations. There is NO reason to own an assault/military type rifle or large magazine. **All firearm** sales need to be recorded. Mental health needs to be an important part of the firearm safety equation.

Please also look at the proposed taxing of the purchase of ammunition. At the scout camp we use large amounts of both 22 cal, and shotgun ammunition each summer. A high tax on large purchases would add greatly to the expense of summer camp experience for youths.

Please do not let a vocal minority side track sensible firearm legislation.

Sincerely,

Phil Monty

Willington, CT