

I am not a hunter, not a sportsman or a collector. I am a person who is deadly serious about self defense and having the most effective tools to protect myself and my family. With that said, I do not ever want to "need" a semi-automatic rifle or a magazine capacity in excess of an arbitrary number that politicians do not want me to possess. I don't ever want to be in a situation when I "need" even one round to stop a deadly attack nor will I tolerate my ability to deliver legal lethal force limited by politicians who have never had to fight for their life at the hands of a criminal who has lived and refined their criminal behavior in the revolving door of our state's criminal justice and mental health systems.

If these types of firearms and accessories are "legitimate" for law enforcement use, why can't the public have access to the same type of tools? Politicians and law enforcement have no duty to protect the individual, as upheld by the US Supreme Court and lesser courts. Politicians are sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state and protect the interests of the lawful without trampling on their rights. Law enforcement officers are sworn to the same oath and investigate the acts of criminals, after a victim has been created. By proxy, law enforcement acts as a deterrent to criminality but cannot be there when the victim is created at the hands of a defective human to immediately protect the innocent.

We are ultimately responsible for our own personal safety and the safety of our families. The lives and safety of law enforcement officers are no less or no more important than the lives of the private citizens that they serve. Since the state cannot be held to task to protect the individual, how can the state limit the tools available to the private citizen for defense of self and others?

Politicians using the victims of the recent Sandy Hook shooting as justification to limit the rights of the citizens is downright disgusting, insulting, irresponsible and callous. Stating that the defective Lanza would have had fewer victims if the lawful were punished is illogical and at a minimum, irresponsible as the investigation into his criminal acts is on going. It can be expected though, Lanza's horrific acts would have gone undeterred no matter the limitations inflicted upon the lawful citizens of Connecticut by our politicians.

With a toothless criminal justice system in Connecticut, coupled with no meaningful mental health reforms in the state, the lawful will continue to be blamed for the criminal acts of the deranged and defective. It is criminal the blame placed by our politicians at the feet of the citizens of the state who behave responsibly. How can it not be criminal that the citizens who own firearms are blamed, demonized and punished for the deranged acts of a criminal simply because they possess tools that our politicians are afraid of and are completely ignorant about their use?

As a father, I am concerned about the personal safety of my daughter. I want her to play in a safe neighborhood, learn in a safe school and to grow up without the specter of violence and criminality in her young life. Further gun control will not ensure that goal. Further gun control is nothing but window dressing that obfuscates the true and multiple causes of violence in our society and is a blame game that will never prevent or otherwise diminish the effects of the lawless who prey on the innocent.

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