

## Fritz, Wendy

---

**From:** Rich <richclvt@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2013 8:32 PM  
**To:** ASaferConnecticut  
**Cc:** Senator Looney; zRepresentative Craig Miner; Senator Coleman; John@senatedems.ct.gov; Sen. Frantz, Scott; Sen. Guglielmo, Anthony; Senator Hartley; Sen. Kissel, John A.; Sen. Witkos, Kevin; zRepresentative Dan Carter; Rep. Dargan, Stephen; Rep. Fox, Gerald; zRepresentative Janice Giegler; Rep. Godfrey, Bob; zRepresentative Rosa Rebimbas; Rep. Walker, Toni  
**Subject:** Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

Richard C. Clavet  
255 Towpath Lane  
Cheshire, CT 06410-3357  
richclvt@cox.net

January 28, 2013

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2C  
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Members:

As an American, a life-long Connecticut resident, a taxpayer, a law-abiding citizen and a gun owner, I urge this committee to review realistic actions that will be effective in reducing "gun-crime".

I strongly **oppose** any action that will limit, penalize or infringe the rights of the law-abiding gun owner in this state.

To those Senators and House Representatives who feel they must intervene and infringe on the rights of lawful citizens in the name of public safety – I would remind you of the following:

Your oath of office specifically states that you "uphold and defend the constitution of the United States and the State of Connecticut." You are sworn to uphold the fundamental principles of the Constitution. I am unaware of any exemptions due to recent events, popularity of interest or theological differences that allow you to detract from your obligations. For those of you who believe the Constitution is a living document that has not kept up with the realities and technology of today, focus your efforts on providing legislation on amending those rights you feel are out of date - instead of subverting them.

The eighty-plus bill proposals, viewable on the Connecticut General Assembly website, attempts to tighten the reigns on private ownership in a state that currently has the 4<sup>th</sup> most restrictive guns laws in the United States. I look at all the gun control laws currently in force and have to question:

- Why didn't the current laws protect the lives of the 26 innocents in Newtown?
- How is more of the same going to protect the public?

- If the recent bill proposals are submitted in the spirit of protecting the public, what is this state government's motivation? The U.S. Supreme Court decision has already established government has no responsibility to protect the public from crime as stated in Heller v. District of Columbia 1981. Why does this legislature feel they have to provide for the public safety, when there is no lawful obligation and have been historically unable to provide?
- The most recent statistical data from the CT Office of Legislative Research – 2007-R-0442 – shows that plea bargains and nolle prosequi for gun-related offenses far outweigh convictions. How will your new bill proposals change that?
- Why are law-abiding gun owners, who dutifully follow the state statutes, being castigated due to the act of one mentally ill individual?

In regards to new the latest bill proposals, I have a few comments:

- Low-income families will be rendered defenseless due to the proposed 50% ammunition tax and liability insurance requirements.
- State revenues will be decreased thru arms manufacturers leaving the state along with 1000's of jobs and sales tax revenue lost through interstate purchases and sales.
- Single shot firearms?.....really?
- After enduring the largest tax increase in Connecticut state history, the projected state deficit exceeds a billion dollars over the next two fiscal years. Another 64 billion dollars in unfunded-liabilities currently on the books is just being ignored. How is all this new legislation going to be funded?
- It took approximately 2-3 weeks to generate over an unprecedented 80 gun control bill proposals. Why can't the same effort be applied to cutting state spending, reducing the tax burden or creating a business-friendly environment?

Bill proposals that speak to ammunition clip limitations, assault weapons, taxes, etc., fail to address the root cause of the Newtown tragedy and gun-violence overall. I can deduce these proposals are either meant to further political careers within the anti-gun lobby, are fearful of the pro-gun lobby due to not understanding the basic principles of responsible firearm ownership or are plainly opposed to the guarantees our current US and state constitutions afford its citizens.

Despite the fact that we still do not have a Connecticut State Police final report regarding the details of the Newtown tragedy; despite not having clear definitive information available to make effective decisions on actual gun violence in the state (as proof of Senator Looney's proposal SB-207 "an act creating a registry of firearm-related injuries or deaths"), our legislators feel that controlling the law-abiding gun owners will somehow make everyone "safer". The only ones that will be safer if this legislation is enacted will be the criminal element.

Some of our legislators should be educated in basic root-cause analysis. This act was committed by a disturbed individual. An individual who would have found any number of methods to inflict suffering without regard to human life. Assuming gun control is the answer is puzzling considering control isn't possible. The City of Chicago with its stifling gun control laws and insane murder rate should be a primary example as to the ineffectiveness of the proposed methodology. Without serious consideration to mental illness, crime reduction and effective background checks, public safety does not improve.

Say the majority of this legislation passes, what next? Will you be there to address the victim's of the next tragedy and explain why your laws did not protect them? Will you tell them that you felt by limiting their inalienable right to self-protection you felt they were safer? What will you tell those future victim's families? What kind of legacy will you leave behind?

If everyone takes a step back, in a rational analytical fashion, the answers should be evident of what we can do almost immediately in securing the safety of our public without infringing on the rights of law-abiding American citizens.

Connecticut's reputation as the "Constitution State" is at stake. The state that gave birth to our national document is now poised to destroy the very essence on what makes the United States the greatest republic – the only republic – this world has ever known. Take the national lead, educate yourselves in firearms and firearms law, put aside the partisan ideologies, address the root cause and formulate effective legislation that will be effective.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit my views to this committee and am confident that the right course of action will be implemented.

RCC