

The Newtown massacre has caused deep sadness, concern, and fear within the people in the State of CT and throughout our Country. Common sense and thoughtfulness needs to prevail during your deliberations, and hyper-emotional or poorly conceived proposals should be rejected.

Many people live in very rural areas of CT, and cannot depend on a quick response (less than 20 minutes) from law enforcement personnel. A lot of these people legally possess semi-automatic handguns as their first line of self defense in the event of a home invasion. These handguns typically hold between 7 and 14 rounds of ammunition in their magazines. Under some of the present proposals these handguns would become illegal and un-useable in CT. Most people are not Wyatt Earp, and under pressure could not stop an attack with one or two shots, especially if more than one invader is present. I would expect that your working group's recommendations will not deprive responsible law abiding citizens from possessing these reasonable self defense weapons.

Many factors contribute to mentally ill, or otherwise imbalanced people performing evil acts within our society. Violent movies, TV shows, electronic games, lack of family unity, declining morals, all contribute. These factors deserve equal or greater attention than adding more gun control laws that only affect law abiding citizens. Connecticut already has more stringent gun laws on the books than most other states and they should be rigidly enforced. Illegal guns, including so called assault rifles, will still be obtained and misused in spite of any new laws that are put in place. We need to determine the root causes of the increased frequency of erratic and violent behavior in this country and work on correcting those.

Sincerely,

Richard Davenport

Chester CT