

2013

January 28,

Bennett III

Richard L.

Connecticut

Berlin,

4079

(860) 808 –

Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
Room 2C, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06108

Re: The Future of This Nation's Rights

My name is Richard Bennett, I am an educated, self-employed family man with 2 children. A daughter soon to be 9 and a 7 year old son. My wife is a school teacher, who loves her job and works countless unpaid hours. I have everything to lose if another school is attacked by a mentally ill psychopath. Indeed, if I suffered the same losses as any of the families had at Columbine, Virginia Tech, and most recently Sandy Hook I would be devastated, but I know this to be certain. I would not blame the gun. How foolish to blame an inanimate object for such atrocities carried out by criminals and even more foolish to place consequence for those actions upon law abiding citizens who own guns.

While some of your new bills are nothing more than a "tweaking" of current practice, the majority of them are based on simple anti-gun rhetoric. It's evident that the people that have the most to say about taking away 2nd Amendment Rights know the least about the guns they're looking to eradicate. These new bills have nothing to do with safety and everything to do with quelling the anti-gun majority, who are exploiting this most recent tragedy to push their own agenda.

Criminals will always have the guns. You can be sure of that. To take away our abilities to defend ourselves and our families is unacceptable and unconstitutional. You speak of background checks, permits and registrations. Done. We are not criminals. You speak of closing loopholes at gun shows. We didn't put them there, you did. You speak of implementing a 50% sales tax on ammunition. That will prove only to impede sportsman and target shooters. You propose limitations on shooting nearby houses. That will destroy our ability to safely shoot on our own property, which is where a lot of tradition is passed down, as it was with me. You talk about "military style" rifles and high capacity magazines being banned because they are intended, as is the 2nd Amendment, for militia. When it comes to defending my family and if need be my community make no mistake, I am the militia.

There are a lot of bad people in this world who mean to do us harm. Nothing will stop them from achieving their heinous goals unless somebody is there to do it. There are only so many police officers. I implore you to keep the Second Amendment alive in CT and the Nation. Do not limit us based on cosmetics, do not limit us on how much ammo we can own, do not limit us on magazine capacities, do not limit us by taxing us into submission, do not limit how we can uphold our traditions. And please do not limit us on how we choose to defend our families.

I believe in our right to bear arms. I believe in our freedoms, even the ones I choose not to exercise. I believe in America.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Richard L. Bennett III