

Richard Lee

Bipartisan Task Force On Gun Violence Prevention And Children's Safety

To Whom it May Concern:

First I would like to state that I am a responsible gun owner, tax payer, law abiding citizen and one of your constituents. I keep my firearms locked securely in a gun safe when not in use as I believe most responsible gun owners do. I have been reading some of the proposed bills put forth in wake of the Newtown tragedy and I am appalled at the knee jerk reaction that some of our elected officials are having and would like to go on record with my thoughts.

Connecticut already has some of the strictest gun control laws in the country and banning guns or limiting magazine capacity is not going to stop an evil person from committing an evil act. More restrictions are only going to affect law abiding citizens. If someone really wants to commit evil, they are going to find a way; all we have to do is look at what Timothy McVeigh or Osama Bin Laden have done.

Every year thousands of people are killed by drunk drivers, yet are we talking about banning cars? Alcohol? Using the same logic that is being displayed in these new anti-gun bills, in regards to DUI's maybe we should limit how much alcohol we citizens should be able to buy, or consume at any given time. I would also like to state that basing any new laws "need" then Connecticut needs to make selling Porsche's and Ferrari's illegal because no one needs a car that can do 100 MPH.

Guns are inanimate objects that on their own are not capable of good OR evil. It is the person wielding the weapon that will do good or evil.

I believe we need to look at the root causes that make people commit the hideous crimes. Is there an underlying reason that young men and children are committing these acts? Maybe lack of employment possibilities? Bleak future? I don't know, but I believe you should stop and take the time to really try to understand the reason behind these crimes, before you just start making laws to be able to say that "I did something"

One last thought, it seems to me that we all have very short memories, it was only 5 short years ago (July 23,2007) that the Petit home invasion occurred. Have we forgotten what a horrible tragedy that was? A mother and her two daughters, all outstanding people in their community, senselessly murdered! Even though Dr. Petit chose not to arm himself, I cannot help but think that if they were armed, and could defend themselves, maybe, just maybe, lives could have been saved.

Please, do not take my right away from defending my family or myself with my weapon of choice.

Sincerely,

Richard Lee