

Dear Task Force Members & Legislators,

I'm submitting this letter to you today as a father, husband, and registered voter. Being the father of a 1st grader, the events that took place at Sandy Hook in December hit very close to home and I pray for those families that they may find peace during this trying time.

In the days and weeks since this horrific event, I've heard proposals from legislators that have run the gambit from melancholy to absurd and my fear is that due to recent partisan politics, both locally and nationally, that this will yield one of two results; a knee-jerk over-reaction (see New York) or inaction.

I implore you as our elected officials to do your research and not to blindly follow party lines and rhetoric. Banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines, while possibly providing a feel-good moment, isn't going to solve this problem. Magazines can be changed quickly and pistols are just as lethal at close range. Look at the history and the firearms used, multiple firearms typically in each occasion, look at what has taken place over the years. Where there's a will, there's a way. Penalizing law abiding citizens for the acts of crazed individuals is not what this should be about. How can you identify those crazed and motivated individuals and what is their access to firearms is.

I hear about 50% tax on ammunition and increasing the penalty for those caught with a firearm in a "gun free zone." Who and what are these laws designed for? With credit so readily available, what mass murderer has been concerned about paying their bills after committing a crime? What mass murderer has been worried about the potential penalty of additional time in prison for committing an act in a gun free zone where murder was their objective? How many of these perpetrators actually survive the event to face these "strict penalties?"

I would argue that these laws are designed as a deterrent more so to legal gun owners having to jump through additional hoops to exercise their right granted by the Constitution. What about a parent who is *legally* armed and gets a call to pick up their sick child from school? Who is watching out for our rights?

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this and for assuming this daunting challenge. I hope that you attack this issue with the same tenacity that you've used to make it to where you are today.

Blazing a new, non-partisan solution will not be easy, but will be the most beneficial and rewarding to the people you support.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Wimble Jr.
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