

Feb, 4th 2013

## Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children Safety

### Members' of the Committee

10,228 people who died in drunken driving crashes in the US, accounting for 31% of all traffic deaths last year. 33,808 total traffic deaths. Yet we don't have a reaction to take away peoples cars, limit the size of cars, and limit the type of gas they use.

62 million registered vehicles = .000165 murders by DUI and .00545 total by vehicles.

2012 - 11,078 (36.4%) homicide deaths by firearms, 30,470 firearm-related deaths in the United States in 2010.

310 million firearms in the United States=.000035 murder/gun Total gun deaths/gun 0 .000098

What needs to be taken into account is the level of use of vehicles per day in the public as opposed to the use of guns per day in public. But so should the high number of gun deaths by youths in drive by shootings and gang violence.

Many will dismiss this comparison because of our comfort and level of use of motor vehicles. But the comparison is to make a point about our perceptions.

A vehicle has the same potential to be a murder weapon as does a firearm. But a terrorist act with a firearm on children has a more emotional impact on all of us then the same crime committed with a motor vehicle. The firearm is considered a more personal act of violence than the DUI driver that enters the wrong side of the highway and kills a family of six. Children shooting each other on the streets and a child killed on their bicycle by a vehicle. One is labeled an "act of violence" the other an "accident". Both have the same results. The perception that one is more deadly than the other is not true but our reaction to them are different.

We are all comfortable with operating a motor vehicle on a daily basis and do not have the same level of comfort or use with handguns or rifles. People have attached a stigma to firearms as being more deadly than a motor vehicle. But in fact that the use of the vehicle by a DUI operator or gun illegally by a unregister gun owner has the same results on our society.

We over react to the deadly act of firearms tragedies but our comfort with the motor vehicle tragedies is minimized as well as our reaction to them.

Over reaction to gun violence has restricted the constitutional right to bear arm and has resulted in;

A Federal background check to obtain a gun, but not to drive a motor vehicle

Finger prints to obtain a firearm, but not a motor vehicle.

Safe operation required for both (a good thing). Registration is required for both.

Mental health reporting required by law for a firearm, but not for operating a motor vehicle.

A federal license to sell a firearm, but not for a motor vehicle.

Federal reporting of sales of a firearm, but not a motor vehicle. A little dramatic? But is it?

Kill someone with a motor vehicle keep driving, kill someone defending your property within your legal rights, firearms and permit confiscated for up to one year and a go to hearing to get them back.

If it is reported to authorities, that one might want to commit suicide and they own firearms. Their firearm permit and firearms are confiscated for up to one year. But you can still gas yourself in the garage with your motor vehicle. There is an incorrect perception of the potential deadliness of a device!

There is no written constitutional right to transportation (maybe under the bill of rights). But transportation has less regulation. A stated constitutional right to bear arms, designed and enacted to protect ones personal property, state and Federal governments- has more regulation.

Now we want to add, increase taxes on ammunition, limit the size and scope of the firearms capability. When those whom want to cause harm to the United States and the criminals that use and illegally obtained firearms they will have more fire power then the citizens whom seeks to legally exercise their rights under the constitution, now they are the ones to be placed under more and more restrictions. Somehow the perception is this will stop gun violence.

I know in the light of a tragedy we all want to do something, that will prevent it from happening again, but events are complicated and when any vehicle (car, knife, hammer or gun) is used in any death it is not the villain or the problem. To me a one DUI conviction, one distracted driving ticket should prevent one from ever driving a motor vehicle again, Why? Because they risked the life and safety of the public, but events are complicated and we don't want to be that serious. Maybe these violators should be limited and allowed only drive a motor cycle (limit to two wheels so they can't text or talk, pay higher taxes when they purchase it or buy gas....) but I doubt it will stop them. Again this would be a punishment on someone who has acted *illegally*. Also, if one does not secure their firearms so an unauthorized person could not have access to the firearms, then one risks the safety of the public and they should not have the firearms.

Additional restrictions on the right to bear arms only diminish the rights of the legal citizen to responsibly defend life, property and country.

Why do you want to limit people who act responsibly and within the law? This is your solution or just a reaction? If we to be serious about "gun violence", then require that laws already passed are enforced and those that break the law are prosecuted to the full extent, without plea bargains, early release ... and report to the FBI those that pose a mental risk or are events to complicated to do what we all ready said we would do?

I oppose additional regulations, restriction on our legal right to lawfully bear arms. These actions should be publicly debated and all laws should be debated in committees hearings. The legislation should not use 'Emergency Certification' to bypass due process of any these proposed laws.

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