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Ladies & Gentlemen of the **BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY:**

Our home is located about 25 miles East of Sandy Hook Elementary and 3 miles West of the site of the Cheshire Home Invasion. These two tragic events have only served to reinforce my need to provide for the protection of my family in view of the obvious threats their safety...by criminal elements as well as the mentally ill. The common element in these events is not a gun...as there were no guns used to destroy that wonderful family on Sorghum Hill Drive...but criminal intent, disregard for human life, and perhaps, mental illness. In both cases (and indeed most of those making headlines across the nation) we have also noted the relative impotence of the various Police agencies (at all levels) to prevent the loss of all those precious lives...and the need for each of us to provide for our own personal safety.

These days you, our Legislators, seem solely focused on using this latest tragedy as a lever to extract/infringe upon the Constitutional Rights of Connecticut's law abiding citizens. Dealing with the tool employed and not the root cause is folly and will only lead to more & greater tragedies. Such action is not the standard of practice in the fields I have pursued over the years (Aviation or Healthcare), where ROOT CAUSE is the "Holy Grail" and widely accepted as the only route to improved safety. The condition and motivations of the perpetrators are far more important than the weapons of choice. There were no guns used to bring down the Murrah building in Oklahoma City (19 children murdered there)... just fertilizer and a Ryder truck. There were no guns used on 9/11 (8 of the 3000 dead were children)...just case cutters and 4 Boeing 757's. There were also no guns used by Hayes and Komisarjevsky to destroy the Petit family in Cheshire...just a baseball bat, some rope, a can of gas, and a match. The bad guys will use whatever they have at their disposal to do their deed or make their statement. These tragedies have intimately touched our lives (the Petit girls attended Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury with my daughter and nieces) and our community as you well know...disarming legal gun owners/restricting our rights to bear arms to protect our families and telling the bad guys where the remaining guns are/aren't will only provide them the intel to pick their targets more wisely and leave us unable to defend our homes/families. The same is true of "Gun-Free Zones"...which both the Aurora and Newtown disasters have shown...only serve to help the lunatics pick their targets.

Both my wife and I have CT Pistol Permits (as does most of our extended family around the state) and, as such, we are the targets of the Bill which will make our names and addresses available to the public. I hope you will ask your sponsoring colleagues, who come before you in Committee or in your respective Legislative Chambers, what the motivation/purpose/intent of that Bill is? Is it meant to intimidate/cow the very folks who follow CT's Gun Laws into some kind of submission/surrender? Is it meant to give the bad guys a map of whose homes in our neighborhoods are defenseless? Is it meant to pinpoint places they are likely to be able to steal firearms? If not the above, then what? Would such a law have, in any way, stopped Adam Lanza from his mission? With Bills like that on the Legislative agenda, can you blame Connecticut's legal gun owners for not trusting the Political Class?

Our family has had a semi-automatic pistol in the house for 20+ years...it is made by an outstanding CT manufacturer (and employer), Ruger, and came standard with a 15 round clip. No smaller size was ever manufactured...nor is it likely to be (the model is no longer in production)...at 15 rounds it is, by definition, NOT a large capacity magazine...it is the STANDARD issue...[you can buy after market larger (18 round) ones]. NY style Legislation to limit magazine size is foolish (someone "trying to make a statement" will just carry another clip - Harris & Klebold used multiple 10 round clips in Columbine... in addition to propane tanks, etc) and will only serve to disarm our household or make us criminals. A similar situation will exist in many/most CT gun owner households in CT, since 13 & 15 rounders are somewhat standard in full frame automatic pistols manufactured over the last 30 years. At least one CT Legislator wants to limit it to 1??? The Devil is always in the details.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do hope you will support enforcement of current gun laws in CT...after all we are ranked #5 in the nation for our current laws according to the Brady Campaign and #4 by the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. The problem is, we don't enforce our own laws nor do we fully support the NICS system by tracking the mentally ill. I also hope you will not support legislation that will do nothing to preempt the next tragedy and only serve to infringe on the Rights of Citizens. The priorities should, in my view, be:

1. Assure the security of our children in schools.
2. Get a handle on the Mental Health aspects common to many of these tragedies.
3. Stop the early release of those convicted of violent crimes from CT DOC facilities.
4. Enforce current laws dealing with firearm procurement and ownership.

The Obama and Malloy Administrations aren't talking about any of the above very much...just using this event to further restrict/remove the Rights of lawful Citizens.

Having retired from the US Army in 2010, after a total of 39 years of service with the Active, Guard, and Reserve components, I have seen the impact of armed criminals, insurgents, and "legitimate" government elements on a defenseless public in places like Viet Nam, Cambodia, Guatemala, and Bosnia Herzegovina. Some of it still gives me nightmares. It all begins with the registration and/or confiscation of firearms from the citizenry. All US Military personnel and elected officials take an oath upon induction or assumption of the elected office. In that oath we variously swear to "protect, defend, support" the Constitution of the United States. I don't recall any

exceptions regarding which Constitutional provisions we were to protect and defend...no asterisk exempting any particular Amendment. I honored my commitment for decades...gladly, with distinction, and at great personal cost. I expect that my elected officials will do as much as long as they hold office.

Thank you.

Bob Guynn