

Task Force Members,

I am a US citizen, military Veteran of 20yrs, father, home and gun owner. **I am in opposition to ALL the Firearm legislation currently being proposed.** My opposition is not just to the obvious anti-gun agenda being pushed but for the sheer volume of proposals (over 60 pieces). **This onslaught of legislation does not allow for any reasonable analysis and debate of the ideas being presented.** Some of the proposals appear to be duplicates or are contained within even more inclusive suggestions. Is anyone even communicating with each other?? Where is prudent and sound leadership? I respect the legislator's rights to propose these bills but this is obviously a display of knee jerk reactions and an attack against Legal gun ownership not an attempt to solve problems.

In the proposed legislation that I have seen none seeks to investigate possible root causes of gun violence like bullying, gang activity, career criminals or mental health issues (the latter of which may have played a significant role in the mass shootings that have occurred in our country) or any of which that would prevent a criminal from committing crime. Oh, wait, criminals don't obey laws now, have not obeyed laws in the past and can reasonably be expected to not obey laws in the future. Why is putting some sort of police protection at schools a bad idea? What does that say about the image of our Police Departments? Have we taught our children to fear law enforcement personnel? Is the sight of law enforcement personnel automatically reason for alert? Our children are supposed to trust Police.

The proposed legislation does however attempt to make it extremely difficult or impossible for law abiding citizens and gun owners to protect themselves effectively. As important, it undermines the intent of the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution and the First Article, Sec. 15 of the Connecticut state Constitution. Some of the methods employed are, extremely high taxation rates on ammunition, extremely high permit fees and the outright banning of legal "Personal Defense Weapons" and standard capacity magazines. In the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy and other crimes that occurs on a daily basis, I can't believe any reasonable thinking person would agree that it is a good idea to try and disarm law abiding citizens so we can keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. It doesn't make sense! Criminals will always get guns.

Did the 1994 "Assault" weapon ban work?? There is NO evidence to suggest that it did. Any "Semi-Automatic" weapon or magazine that was manufactured before the law went into effect in 1994 was perfectly legal to own or resell. Additionally, "Assault weapons" were never a large factor in gun violence to begin with only making up about 2-8%. Why go back to an idea with that kind of result? That does not sound like success. Anyway criminals don't follow the laws.

There is no proliferation of guns, they are already out there and have always been. Law abiding citizens are not packing long guns up and down the streets to shoot at each other at the drop of a dime. There is no movie style "Wild West" effect created

by people that carry a firearm for self-defense. Law abiding people with guns were not and are not running around shooting each other over every disagreement.

The police use semi- automatic “Personal Defense Weapons” with standard capacity magazines capable of holding 7 to 30 rounds, depending on type and caliber, for their protection. Law abiding citizens should be affording the same level of protection. We will be dealing with the criminal element BEFORE the Police show up.

The current proposals just create more damage and hardship for law abiding citizens. Reality has shown once again that gun bans are not the solution. Finding ways to help people is. Thank you for your time and service.

Very Respectfully,

Ronald Robeson
Gales Ferry, CT