

Published in the CT Post, January 24, 2013

Much as this liberal has to take a deep breathe before saying it, conservatives may be on to something in their proposals for reducing gun violence.

Since the Newtown horror we seem to have focused heavily on eliminating military weapons from civilian ownership -- an end with which I completely agree. Doing so will address what has become the most visible issue, but one that is merely the tip of the iceberg and that does not address the broader national problem.

In fact, even Vice President [Joe Biden](#) misframed and understated the issue last week: He said 25 people die in gun accidents in the U.S. each day. Do the math, that's a truly appalling number -- almost 10,000 deaths annually.

Unfortunately, the problem is that we suffer not 10,000, but 30,000 gun deaths annually. The "other" two-thirds are suicides.

So perhaps as we develop strategies to reduce gun violence, we should, as conservatives suggest, move mental health issues to the top of our national agenda. What the policy should be and how it should be implemented are decisions for others far more knowledgeable than I.

Doing so will require left and right to join together to develop a policy that is proactive, universal, fully paid for by the prospective purchaser, and one that becomes an essential precondition for the purchase of any firearm.

This not an attack on the Second Amendment. Hunters, sportsmen and gun collectors who know and practice gun safety have nothing to fear. Meanwhile, those who are a greater danger to themselves than to society should at least have a more difficult time obtaining the weapon that might place their lives in jeopardy.

Roy Fuchs  
221 Fitch's Pass  
Trumbull, CT 06611

Read more: <http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Solutions-remain-far-from-clear-4217664.php#ixzz2IvuP5G4K>