

Dear Gun Violence Task Force,

My fiancée and I are soon to be legal pistol permit holders, just recently having gotten into target shooting. We also feel the need to arm ourselves for self defense after countless news stories over the years of mass shooting's, home invasion's, and many different incidents involving gun violence. Too many people illegally obtain, carry, and use firearms in our country. None of which will be stopped by increased background checks, mental health screenings, the banning of certain weapons, or high capacity magazines. This type of legislation won't effect criminals who already don't take legal routes to obtain firearms. Leaving the legal, law abiding citizens of Connecticut at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to a self defense situation. As a would be attacker could be armed with anything!

Our idea of common sense solutions to gun violence in our state are as follows.

- Require a permit(maybe a pistol permit or separate) for the purchasing, possession, or transfer of a Rifle and or Shotgun. A permit would mean only certified individuals who have passed NRA Safety course's and background checks could obtain a weapon.

- Require a permit to purchase ammunition of all types. Criminals have to get their ammo somewhere, it's only logical we make sure they can't just walk into a gun shop and purchase ammunition.

- Remove GUN FREE ZONE'S! They put a target on innocent people who have no means to protect themselves from a madman, who doesn't care about the law. We need other means of security to protect our children and citizens from dangerous people.

Something needs to be done, but making felons out of current gun owners who follow the law isn't the answer. Many people own modern sporting rifles that are now being labelled as "Assault Weapons". Many legal gun owners possess magazines that hold over 10 rounds. They spent their hard earned money on these items, payed taxes to the state of Connecticut on these items. Many having legally purchased and owned these weapons for year's, and now because of the actions of another, you propose to take them away or label said law abiding citizen a felon! Legal gun owners shouldn't be discriminated against because of the crimes someone else committed.

Although I support making people become certified to own and purchase a weapon by the means of a permit. I strongly oppose any legislation that would raise fee's on permits, require liability insurance, or put ridiculous tax increase's on ammunition. These measure's do nothing to curb violence in our state, penalizing anyone who want's to legally own a firearm. This would also leave the less fortunate citizens, most of which who live in high crime areas, unable to afford a means of legal self defense. Every American has the right to keep and bare arms, their financial status shouldn't exclude them from this right!

Thank you,
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