

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

I am writing to ask you to seriously consider your position on any legislation regarding firearms and the rights of the people to keep and bear arms. It is my position, and in my humble opinion the position of any reasonable person, that the right to defend myself, my family, and my property (and even arguably the life and well being of any innocent party) is an **inalienable human right**. Not granted by the constitution, but rather protected by it. We are not subjects of the crown, we are free men. I do not ask that you allow us to remain free, rather I demand that you recognize your place in government, that you are our employees, sworn to uphold the constitution and act on the will of your constituents. And if those two things should be at odds, you should err on the side of the constitution.

It is clear to any reasonable person who reads the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment that it is meant to protect and ensure that the rights of the people not be infringed. However much of the proposed legislation is designed to do exactly that. Effectively punishing those who do no harm for the sake of those who do harm serves no good purpose. Ever. A firearm is little more than a power tool that acts on the will or ignorance of its holder. Men with guns protect this country, its borders, its citizens to some degree, its financial institutions, and you, its politicians, yet you would deny us the right to defend ourselves with equal measure? As much as I respect the law and those in law enforcement, they are not and could never be funded well enough to be everywhere all the time. When seconds count, a cop is just minutes away. I believe that the existing firearms laws in Connecticut are more than sufficient, but many of the proposed laws would place an undue hardship on sportsman target shooters and hunters alike, and for what? It will NOT prevent ANYTHING. If laws could prevent things like the Newtown tragedy from happening, then making murder illegal would have stopped it. Obviously that doesn't work. Simply put, Gun control laws don't stop criminals. If they did my father would still be alive (research Aug 17, 1997).

It angers and frustrates me that people vilify the firearm and all gun owners by proxy, and ignore the personal responsibility aspect of these events. The sick individual whose name is not worthy of mention is responsible. The family members who knew he was sick and did not properly secure the firearms in the house or remove the firearms from the household are responsible. And perhaps the anti psychotic drugs he was said to be on were in some way responsible. But we, the lawful firearm owners of this great nation, are NOT RESPONSIBLE. Do NOT punish us for the actions of a criminal!

I am disappointed with the climate change occurring in this state, and refuse to be treated like a subject. As such, I promise you I will fight your proposed changes as vocally as I can, but when I lose as I expect I will in this blue blooded state, I will have to move from the only home I have ever known and make my home somewhere else. Somewhere that still treats its citizens like free men, not children who can't be trusted with the tools of freedom. I expect a mass exodus from this state if your proposed bills are passed, and if necessary I will lead the way.

Respectfully  
Scott Boland