

DISABLED AMERICANS FOR FIREARMS RIGHTS

DAFR - Fighting for the firearms rights of responsible disabled Americans – DAFR

February 4th, 2013

Co-Chairs and Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group:

My name is Scott Ennis; I am from New London, CT. I am also the Founder of Disabled Americans for Firearms Rights. As of January 27th, 2013 we have an approximate national membership of 14,350 individuals of which approximately 1,134 members currently reside in the State of Connecticut. Members of our organization have expressed serious concern regarding the number of anti-firearms bills that are being introduced.

We are highly concerned regarding the mislabeling of certain semi-automatic rifles as being assault weapons and their possible ban. Many responsible disabled firearms owners can only utilize the AR-15 type rifle as it is easily adjustable for each individual's own special needs. As one of the founders of DAFR, I can attest to this first hand. I have a bleeding disorder called Hemophilia. Hemophilia causes internal bleeding into the joints which over time severely hinders normal joint function. 40 years of bleeding into my joints, particularly the elbows have rendered me unable to completely straighten my arms as well as the inability to turn my hand over to grip the forend of a rifle or shotgun in a traditional manner. I currently use an AR-15 type rifle for both home defense as well as for sport shooting. The pistol grip, adjustable stock and addition of a vertical foregrip allow individuals with certain disabilities, such as myself, to be able to adjust the firearm to their own specific need as well as the ability to hold their hands in a vertical position. Without these types of options, thousands of responsible disabled firearms owners would not be able to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights.

Our members do respect and praise the establishing of this bipartisan task force to investigate the tragic events that happened in Sandy Hook and how future tragedies like that can be avoided. With that being said we are also concerned that the task force may be used as a vehicle to push many of the bills that are being proposed straight to the floor for a vote. Use of an Emergency Certification procedure on any of the current proposals will not give an opportunity for our members to testify in opposition to what we deem would be unfair to many responsible disabled firearms owners.

The rights of responsible disabled firearms owners as well as all responsible firearms owners within the State of Connecticut should take precedent over any such unfair proposals or extreme reactions based on the actions of one severely disturbed individual criminal.

In closing, I, as well as all of our members, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the victims' families.

Respectfully,

Scott Ennis
Founder, DAFR

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