

January 28, 2013

Public Safety Meeting on Firearms

Legislative Office Building Hartford CT, Room 2C

Senators, Representatives, Police Chiefs, State officials and my fellow Citizens...

I don't believe there is a single man or woman in this room, in this state or in this Country that had they been exposed to the actual carnage at the Sandy Hook elementary school last month, that each person would have been moved and perhaps inclined to go home, empty their safes and dump their firearms in to the trash. No singular crime has gripped the entire nation with equal disdain and disgust since 911.

Equally however, I can think of no man or women, no mom or Dad who upon hearing about the slaughter of the Petit family in Cheshire CT some years ago, that these same people had an equal desire an equal drive to protect themselves and their loved ones at any cost.

These two incidents while seemingly unrelated are related, they both evoked an immediate emotional response to a situation and neither of these acts could have been prevented or regulated with the stroke of a pen.

The most protected person on earth, the President of the United States has been past victimized in recent years; the sad truth is that nothing can stop a determined criminal from attempting to perpetrate their crime.

We have become a purely reactionary society, we speak of being proactive but only after some event wakes us out of our slumber, the reactions almost always a knee jerk affair without a thorough review of cause and effect and often we revisit old ideas expecting new results, it was Albert Einstein who said the definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

So here we are again, another mass shooting, another deranged perpetrator and the response is yet again, BAN GUNS as if the gun, any gun decided to be a weapon of mass destruction on its own.

I ask just where is the responsibility; does it lie with an inanimate object or the person who willfully decides to use it, plans, prepares, buys, steals, loads, transports, picks a target and then follows up on and executes that plan.

I think there is an argument and a good argument that perhaps the individual may have some responsibility in these movements, thoughts and acts.

Sure the firearm can indeed be destructive in the wrong hands; there is no disputing that fact, no one is sickened more over these crimes than law abiding citizens that own firearms. We understand the ramifications of unsafe gun handling. We respect and understand the power yielded with a firearm. We appreciate the responsibility afforded us by the Bill of Rights and Connecticut's own Constitution.

As guns owners we are appalled when anyone abuses the law, when anyone commits a crime as do all law abiding citizens gun owners or not, there is little difference between us on that point.

Somehow gun owners are labeled as such, we come from all walks of life and every station of life, guns don't define us, but our Rights are defined, our Rights are clear and are irrefutable.

This legislative body does not have the Right to criminalize law abiding citizens who merely followed the existing laws, this same repetitive response to the Newtown murders are the same failed ideas that will serve no one, they will not prevent crime, they will not increase security, they will not protect the children, these new collective bills if enacted into law will only serve one master.

The criminal element, we will hear the sighs of relief and the laughter echoing in the halls of prisons far and wide, the criminal element will have free reign and have little to fear when they are paroled yet again.

The criminals don't follow the law, hence the term criminal, they don't go to gun stores or ranges or gun shows, they rob steal, cheat, some get caught and then they get paroled and repeat the process again, these new bill s will just make this repetitive cycle less dangerous for the criminals.

As I mentioned earlier, and borrowing Einstein's remarks; doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results is arguably insane. This entire topic and debate needs to be inclusive with the discussions of mental health, the judicial system, the prison system and homeland security as well, after all disarming the public is rendering the entire nation less safe.

We all want the same things, no one is arguing for more guns to enable more crime, the data and the studies, many of which will most assuredly be cited in today's commentary actually indicate quite the opposite is true.

So I ask as a citizen, as a veteran who understands like all free citizens do the importance of our collective freedoms. So I ask that you representatives uphold the oath that you took, that you operate as a government for the people, embracing the ideas set forth by men wiser than all of us.

Connecticut, one of the original 13 colonies, Connecticut the armorer of the Union in the civil war, Connecticut the backbone of the arsenal of democracy in WWII, that this state not fall into the hysteria that has gripped this Nation and that has divided NY State.

Connecticut can lead the way in common sense and take the first steps in being proactive without dividing our population, we can come together with equitable and reasonable responses to these and all the complex and difficult issues involved.

Respectfully,

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