

Dear Legislatures of the Bipartisan Task Force,

I believe the creation of more laws with restrictions on firearms and ammunition in response to the tragic events of the Sandy Hook School crime will not produce the intended results of crime prevention.

Webster's Dictionary defines a criminal as: "One who commits an act or the commission of an act that is forbidden by law". Why are we constantly looking to enact new laws when we know criminals do not respect the numerous current laws that already apply? Criminals have no respect for the law. The only people that will be affected by the proposed restrictive legislation on firearms and ammunition will be the law abiding citizens in good standing. The proposed legislation restricting firearms and ammunition will, in fact, restrict the law abiding citizen's rights to defend themselves.

The Columbine High School murders were committed by two young men at a time when a federal ban was in affect on the very firearms used in that crime. An FBI agent assigned to investigate that crime was interviewed several years afterward and he stated that the two young criminals violated over 120 local, state and federal gun laws already in affect. He further acknowledged that additional gun laws would not have prevented the crime. He emphasized that we needed to address the emotional and mental problems that were apparent characteristics of the two criminals in that crime. I find similar issues in the Sandy Hook School crime and, once final law enforcement investigation reports are available, we will better know what steps are necessary to produce affective results.

There is no doubt that the rest of the Nation will be looking at Connecticut's response to the Sandy Hook School crime. I believe Connecticut will appear foolish and irresponsible by responding with stricter gun control legislation while implementing an "Early Release" program that has allowed criminals with a violent crime background to be rushed back into society. I suggest the following measures be immediately taken to address the violent crime issues currently being studied:

1. Eliminate the early release program.
2. Restrict/restrain plea bargaining and minimal sentencing for violent crime indictments and conviction penalties.
3. Stricter enforcement of illegal drug laws. A majority of violent crimes are committed during an illegal drug related event.
4. Strengthen school security measures.

With respect to the item #4 above, I believe there should be mandatory armed defense personnel available on site, either within the administrative and educator community or hired for that purpose. Resistance to this obvious fact ignores the one immediate effective measure that could have prevented or at least minimized the carnage of the Sandy Hook School crime.

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