

Good morning Task Force,

My name is Steven Loban, residing in Naugatuck and having been a Connecticut resident my entire life.

I am just ask shocked and saddened by the tragedy that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 as all of us are. What has happened in the aftermath is an all out attack agaisnt guns, gun ownership rights and gun owners themselves. This is wrong.

The measures proposed in recent weeks would not have prevented the tragedy. Banning guns, banning magazines, banning and taxing ammunition to prohibitive levels, publishing gun owners names and addresses and forcing prohibitve insurance requirments will not prevent another mass shooting, street crime or any other gun related crime. This is not a "gun violence" or "gun safety" initiative. It is a gun banning and gun owner ostracizing initiative.

Banning firearms based on their cosmetic appearance with military firearms is like banning a red, two door convertible car while leaving the blue, four door sedan with the same engine and transmission legal for sale.

In fact, for almost two hundred years, firearms used by the military and police were often the same mechanically if not the same firearms themselves. Today's civilian firearms that look like military firearms lack the same capability in their ability to function like a rifle or a machine gun at the flip of a switch.

Concenrning magazine capacity, it must be noted that just as there are tens of millions of semi-automatic rifles, there are HUNDREDS of millions if not billions of ammunition magazines, simple, inexpensive ammunition containers made of stamped sheet metal, aluminum or plastic with a two dollar spring inside. Banning them will only criminalize 180,000 pistol permit holders. Real criminals would be unaffected. Countries like England, the Netherlands, Germany and others have long since banned semi automatic rifles and magazines and still have suffered the same type of school shootings since their bans were enacted. Limiting a magazine to ten rounds, seven rounds, or as in Senator Meyer's bill, NO magazine - all guns must be a single shot, which is a ludicrous proposal - magazines can be changed in a flash. Some guns like revolvers, that only hold 5 or 6 rounds, a criminal can tuck a number of them under a coat or inside a belt and still commit the same kind of mass shooting tragedy without so much as leaving a shell casing on the ground. For citizens, today's brazen home invasion criminals are increasingly attacking in packs of 3 or 4 or more.

For a citizen to have to face such an invasion and not have the ability to fend them off is not only unconstitutional, it is sending a message that the legislature considers citizens' lives less worthy of protection than law enforcement officers' lives. We are all facing the same type of criminals today. I would like to note at this point that within the last week there is a story about how a home owner deployed an AR-15 rifle with a 30 round magazine in place and how the criminal, upon seeing the AR-15 rifle and large capacity magazine aborted his attempted home invasion and fled. Not a shot was fired. Not a single person was harmed. Not even the criminal! This is the most desired outcome for using a firearm in self defense. Similarly another story was reported about two weeks ago where a single mom, facing an armed home invader shot him with a .38 revolver hitting him five times out of the six shots the gun had available. She did drive him

off, saving herself and her children but police found him still in the driveway pleading for help. What if she had been attacked by two, three or more attackers?

For a criminal committing a mass atrocity with any firearm, it doesn't matter how many rounds of ammunition the gun's magazine can hold when all of the victims are defenseless and can't shoot back.

On the topic of ammunition taxation at 50%, this is nothing but a form of punishment for law abiding citizens having nothing to do with the tragedy that occurred. Guns and ammunition are available on the street just as crack and meth are. Criminals will always be able to get them. Guns and ammunition are made all over the world, Russia, China, Latin America, Africa, etc. 95% of all container ships are never inspected and imposing such a tax would only force Connecticut gun owners to drive out of state to purchase ammunition, supporting the sales tax revenues of other states, while causing Connecticut dealers to go out of business.

On the topic of insurance, this requirement is a "back door" form of gun registration and confiscation because homeowners will either be charged prohibitive rates or, as some insurance companies have done, drop coverage for gun owners. This will lead to thousands of cases of insurance fraud and non compliance.

On the topic of making public the names and addresses of permit holders as proposed by Rep. Dargan, I cannot think of a more deplorable ostracization policy treating gun owners as if they were registered sex offenders. There are reports in New York where this has happened that some homes were already burglarized because of publishing the information. Gun owners with pistol permits have proven two things: A. They have passed a required safety course for the guns they might own and B. They have passed Federal, State and local police background investigations. I wonder what it is we don't know about our other neighbors?

In summary, these proposals are nothing but the knee-jerk reactions of politicians and anti gun organizations seeking to promote their agendas. I have heard nothing on the news about school safety or mental health issues in the past month. I have only heard "what are we going to do about guns?"

I would welcome a discussion around pistol permits for gun and magazine ownership, gun storage and training which might have prevented the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. But alas, since I am a permit holder and a gun owner and certified instructor, I have never been invited to a seat at the table to provide input for real solutions.

This is truly a shame. And so are the anti gun proposals politicizing the after math of the horrible tragedy that occurred last month.

Thank you,

Steven Loban

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