

Let's be honest. We are here today for political reasons and NOT for any valid purpose. Statistics show that with increased firearms purchases by law abiding citizens, crime goes down and any NEW gun control laws will only affect the ability of law abiding citizens ability to defend themselves.

Criminals DO NOT OBEY THE LAWS. They do not apply for permits. Lanza tried to purchase another rifle and was denied by EXISTING laws. The sad fact is his mother failed to take appropriate steps in view of his mental deficiencies and failed to secure her guns as is REQUIRED BY EXISTING LAWS.

FBI statistics and other studied by The National Institute for Justice have concluded that the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 failed to show any measurable positive affect on crime. If gun control law were so effective, Chicago would be the safest place on earth. As a matter of fact it had the HIGHEST number of deaths by gun in the nation.

Now, I realize this is an emotional time and you feel compelled to DO SOMETHING to show you are listening even though what you propose will do nothing to prevent mass killings. And since it is not politically correct to do anything in the mental health arena you pick on law abiding gun owners to punish for your failure to protect the public. In 2011 323 deaths were caused by what you define as assault rifles. 496 were by hammer, 650 by knife, 12,000 by drunk drivers and 195,000 by Medical Malpractice. Many informed professionals recognize that playing violent video games desensitizes the player to violence and while most will not commit heinous acts of violence perhaps a background check should be required for purchase. Few if any CCW holders will commit a crime but are all required to have a background check. Why don't you take the same approach with these games?

If you are serious about reducing gun crime, the following must be considered:

- 1) Federalize gun crimes-when criminal know they cannot plead down but will AUTOMATICALLY GET 10 YEARS for committing a crime with a gun
- 2) Remove all "Gun Free Zones" This only identified where the perp can do the deed and know there will be no opposition. These mass murderers want to control what happens and if someone might interfere that doesn't satisfy them. The Colorado shooting Holmes had several other theaters to go to but chose Century because it was the only one that was identified as a "gun free zone"
- 3) Outlaw or restrict violent video games
- 4) Scrap your early release program for violent offenders
- 5) And finally, if you want to protect kids in school, install a panic system that locks innocent people behind bullet proof doors. The average response time is 7-8 minutes. If we can deter the bad guy for that long the police will take care of it. However, if schools are NOT identified as Gun Free Zones, the crazy will go somewhere else.

***Steve***

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