

January 28, 2013

Dear Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

I am writing to urge you not to recommend any new restrictions on firearms, magazines or ammunition. I do not believe that any new restrictions would have prevented the Newtown tragedy and that they would only infringe on law abiding citizens' constitutional rights. I do not see how a limit on magazine capacity would have helped at the Newtown tragedy because the shooter would have been able to reload without interference. If someone at the school had a firearm they might have been able to stop him or deter him from going there in the first place since it appears he was unwilling to face the police since he killed himself before they arrived. Article 7 of the Connecticut state constitution states that the citizens have a right to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state. This right is denied at public schools and other public gun free zones leaving the people in these zones utterly defenseless if there are no police officers nearby. It defies common sense to not allow someone in the school to defend the children. Thousands of law abiding citizens defend themselves every year from criminal attack with firearms often without a shot being fired because the assailant breaks off the attack at the sight of the firearm. The number of states that allow concealed carry has increased dramatically over the past several years and the violent crime rate has been declining for 30 years. Moreover, it is my understanding that the assault weapons' ban had no statistical effect on crime.

To say that the second amendment of the Bill of rights is there to protect hunters is an outrageous insult to the intelligence of the public. The idea of arbitrarily limiting the number of rounds in a magazine I suspect has more to do with incrementally chipping away at our second amendment rights than anything else especially in view of New York State's recent law reducing the limit from 10 rounds to 7. Nobody knows how many rounds might be needed in a self-defense situation.

It seems to me that this tragedy is being used to further the political intention of destroying the Second Amendment rather than focusing on effective ways of preventing gun violence. Thousands of people are killed in automobile accidents each year. If the interest is in saving lives, why is there not legislation which would prevent cars capable of going over 20 miles per hour?

I urge you to proceed cautiously in this emotional period as our Constitutional rights stand between us and tyranny.

Respectfully,

T. Whitney Prentice

Branford, CT