

To ALL Members of the Task Force for a Safer Connecticut:

EACH and EVERY piece of proposed legislation recommended by the task force working groups to deal with issues of safety in our state MUST include FULL Public Hearings.

Simply inviting pre-selected speakers or the heads of pre-selected organizations is NOT sufficient.

While the emotions surrounding the issues still run so high, it is understandable that there are those on both sides of extremely complex considerations who would prefer to rush to judgement.

The usual POLITICAL passing of bills that merely APPEAR to deal with the problem of violence in our state and in this country, which fail to deliver what their promoters promise as we are all so well accustomed, is to admit failure.

FAKED LEGISLATION IS A LIE and cannot possibly be truly effective. If the Connecticut Legislature, which is essentially a legislative one-party-state, determines that it cannot afford to do the right thing, if it chooses to ignore the unprecedented opportunity of thorough, open consideration and debate when so many citizens are ready, willing and able to contribute their diverse insights and experience to craft the best possible outcome, then one must conclude the primary goal of government here is NOT to serve, but to RULE.

Such an attitude is as abhorrent as the events which precipitated your proceedings.

This is IMPORTANT WORK.

Let the work you have begun continue to its fullest conclusion. Let its result be the best possible result, one which refuses to brush aside this or that critical consideration.

Our only challenge must be,

"Is this the BEST all of us can do - TOGETHER."

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Thank you for your efforts in this most important Quest.

Thomas Patch

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