

Dear Honorable Members of the Task Force on gun control subgroup;

Re:

- HB-5112 – REP. DARGAN: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS HOLDING HANDGUN PERMITS (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Oppose**
- HB-5165 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON'S HOME, MOTOR VEHICLE OR BUSINESS (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- HB-5176 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- HB-5179 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO THE INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE SYSTEM OF THE SPECIAL LICENSING AND FIREARMS UNIT OF THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Support**
- HB-5268 AN ACT REQUIRING THE MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE BY FIREARM OWNERS AND ESTABLISHING A SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION (FIN, REV & BONDING). **Oppose**
- HB-5269 AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR CRIMINAL USE OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- HB-5452 AN ACT REQUIRING GUN OWNERS TO CARRY LIABILITY INSURANCE (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Oppose**
- HB-5561 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE STATE-WIDE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE (APPROP.). **Support**
- HB-5580 AN ACT REQUIRING THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE TO STUDY WAYS TO INCREASE SECURITY AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (EDUCATION). **Support**
- HB-5646 AN ACT CONCERNING GANG ACTIVITY AND CRIME (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- HB-5647 AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH CAPACITY FIREARMS (JUDICIARY).. **Oppose**
- HB-5651 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OR POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION (JUDICIARY).. **Oppose**
- HB-5654 AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO FIREARMS BY A PERSON WHO POSES A RISK OF IMMINENT PERSONAL INJURY TO HIMSELF OR OTHERS (JUDICIARY).. **Support**
- HB-5656 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR A CRIME COMMITTED WITH A FIREARM (JUDICIARY).. **Support**
- HB-5660 AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR HARM CAUSED TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS COMMITTING VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST OTHERS WHILE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY (JUDICIARY). ???
- HB-5676 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM PENALTY FOR ILLEGALLY SELLING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM (JUDICIARY).. **Support**
- HB-5862 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR SCHOOL SECURITY UPGRADES (FINANCE REV BONDING). **Support**
- HB-5934 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEASIBILITY OF OUTFITTING FIREARMS WITH BIOMETRIC READING DEVICES (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- HB-5935 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE AND STORAGE OF FIREARMS (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- HB-5937 AN ACT REQUIRING UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL FIREARM SALES AT GUN SHOWS (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- HB-5949 AN ACT CONCERNING POSSESSION OF CERTAIN AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICES (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- HB-5950 AN ACT REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF GUN VIOLENCE (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- HB-5951 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION THROUGH THE INTERNET (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- HB-5952 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- HB-5953 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF AN ASSAULT WEAPON (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- HB-5955 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND MANUFACTURE OF CERTAIN FIREARM MAGAZINES (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**

- HB-5956 AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWAL OF PISTOL AND REVOLVER PERMITS (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- HB-5957 AN ACT LIMITING THE NUMBER OF PISTOLS OR REVOLVERS AN INDIVIDUAL MAY PURCHASE IN ANY THIRTY-DAY PERIOD (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- HB-6006 AN ACT REQUIRING GUN STORE OWNERS TO SAFELY SECURE RIFLES (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Oppose**
- HB-6008 AN ACT REQUIRING REPORTING OF FIREARM INVENTORY (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Oppose**
- HB-6010 AN ACT PROMOTING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF STATE RESIDENTS (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Support**
- HB-6014 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Support**
- SB-1 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS FROM VIOLENCE (JUDICIARY).. **Oppose**
- SB-21 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR AN ETERNAL LIGHT IN MEMORY OF VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE (GOVT. ADMIN & ELEC.). **Oppose**- amendment for all victims of violence, not just firearms.
- SB-42 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION (JUDICIARY).. **Oppose**
- SB-122 AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON GUN USE (JUDICIARY).. **Oppose**
- SB-124 AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES (JUDICIARY).. **Oppose**
- SB-140 AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR FIREARM OWNERS AND SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION (FIN, REV & BONDING). **Oppose**
- SB-207 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGISTRY OF FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES AND DEATHS (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Support**
- SB-277 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES REGARDING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (EDUCATION). **Support**
- SB-307 AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE STATE-WIDE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE (APPROPRIATIONS). **Support**
- SB-328 AN ACT CONCERNING MINORS AND VIOLENT POINT-AND-SHOOT VIDEO GAMES (GENERAL LAW). **Support**
- SB-367 AN ACT CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS (PUBLIC HEALTH). **Support**
- SB-377 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF PISTOL PERMITS (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Support**
- SB-478 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (HUMAN SERVICES). **Support**
- SB-495 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMISSION OF CERTAIN FELONIES WITH A FIREARM OR ASSAULT WEAPON (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- SB-496 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE AWARD OF RISK REDUCTION CREDIT TOWARD A REDUCTION IN SENTENCE FOR A CRIME COMMITTED WITH A FIREARM (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- SB-501 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- SB-503 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Support**
- SB-504 AN ACT CONCERNING LARGE CAPACITY GUN MAGAZINES (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Oppose**
- SB-505 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE A RIFLE (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Oppose**
- SB-506 AN ACT REQUIRING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM SALES (PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY). **Oppose**
- SB-572 AN ACT CONCERNING A LIMITED SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR OUT-OF-STATE BOATS (FINANCE REV BONDING). **Support**
- SB-600 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF A RIFLE OR SHOTGUN (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- SB-601 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF ASSAULT WEAPON (JUDICIARY). **OPPOSE**
- SB-604 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECURE SAFEKEEPING OF FIREARMS (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- SB-605 AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A RIFLE OR SHOTGUN (JUDICIARY). **Support**

- SB-606 AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION CRITERIA FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- SB-607 AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- SB-608 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION, IMPORTATION, TRANSFER OR SALE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF UNREASONABLY DANGEROUS AMMUNITION (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- SB-609 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PURCHASE OF MORE THAN ONE PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A THIRTY-DAY PERIOD (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- SB-610 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE OPTION OF OBTAINING AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE FOR A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- SB-611 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEE FOR ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF A STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (JUDICIARY). **Oppose**
- SB-612 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM (JUDICIARY). **Support**
- SB-615 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES (JUDICIARY). **Oppose** (amend unless in defense of a life.)

"A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government." –George Washington

"Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not." ~ Thomas Jefferson

"You won't get gun control by disarming law-abiding citizens. There's only one way to get real gun control: Disarm the thugs and the criminals, lock them up, and if you don't actually throw away the key, at least lose it for a long time... It's a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun controllers. I happen to know this from personal experience." Ronald Reagan, 1983

From the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government ... But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The Constitution of the state of Connecticut, Section 15

"Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

I strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** the above new gun control legislation and support those thusly labeled that have been introduced by legislators in the 2013 General Assembly. More gun control is not the answer: guarding our children is, especially in light of the Newtown tragedy. The New Haven Register's editorial page editor, Charles P. Kochakian, agrees that Sen. Edward Meyer's bill, limiting one bullet at a time in a gun, "goes too far." Kochakian goes on to say "But as a serious proposal, it is not only impractical, but could potentially inflame and detract from any reasoned gun control debate... Meyer's proposal could turn a half million or more Connecticut residents into felons facing prison time if they did not comply with what is effectively a gun confiscation plan. Such a law would certainly face a legal challenge."

None other than Chris Powell, managing editor of the Manchester Journal Inquirer, shares his view that "The governor and legislators seem almost happy to be able to busy themselves with ideas for more regulation of guns, in response, but with little relevance, to the madman's atrocity in Newtown, as if they might not have to face the collapse of state government's finances and Connecticut's economy."

Some of the proposed bills would eliminate some of the 2,400 gun industry jobs and close gun stores that employ thousands of Connecticut taxpayers, leading to serious economic hardship for the state and drive unemployment up to 9% once again. Is that what we want to happen here? I think not.

The proposed pieces of gun control legislation that seem to multiply everyday, as summarized on the CGA.CT.GOV website, are a complete overreach and exaggeration of legislation needed to curb violence of ANY kind in our state, let alone in schools. These bills, if passed, would severely restrict the legitimate use of firearms by law-abiding Connecticut residents who use firearms for self-protection or sport, and these actions would violate the Second and Fourth amendments. **Their enactment would instantly turn 180,000 Connecticut citizens with gun permits into felons.** Studies show that guns and devices (including the types legislators seek to ban) are used over 2 million times each year by law-abiding citizens in the prevention of violent crime.

The fact is that the Second Amendment guarantees our right to keep and bear arms in defense of ourselves and against any tyrannical government. Outright gun bans and de facto gun confiscation certainly infringes on the Second Amendment and can be construed as interfering with or removing our rights under that amendment, thus tyranny. Rigorous studies of the U.S. and other countries repeatedly show that firearms restrictions result in more crime, not less. Law-abiding citizens comply, but

criminals ignore the laws, resulting in reduced likelihood of negative outcomes for the criminals and therefore more crime. That's why we call them outlaws: they don't care about or follow any laws.

Every mass shooting since at least 1950, with the exception of the 2011 attack on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, occurred in so-called "gun-free zones." The Aurora, Colorado shooter passed up theaters that were closer to his home, yet picked the single local theater where guns were banned. Why? Criminals seek out weak targets where the risk is relatively lower. Taking guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens just serves to embolden criminals. The shooter in the Clackamas, Oregon mall was deterred by a lone armed citizen, Nick Meli, who had only to point his gun towards the shooter causing him to back into a stairwell and take his own life, proof that when good guys are ready to use their guns, the bad guys fail.

Here are a few more facts about armed Americans:

- In 2012, in the Clackamas Mall in Oregon, an armed law-abiding citizen, Robert Meli, only had to draw and point his firearm at a shooter, who had already killed two people before his gun jammed, to cause the shooter to stop the killing and turn his gun on himself, ending the event.

- On July 13, 2012, in Palms Internet Café in Florida, armed law-abiding senior citizen Samuel Williams shot two armed suspects staging an armed holdup. They were captured by police and arrested.

- In 1982, the town of Kennesaw, Georgia, passed an ordinance which required all heads of household to have at least one gun in the house. The burglary rate immediately dropped an astounding 89 percent. Ten years after the law was passed, the burglary rate was still 72 percent less than it was in 1981.

- Armed citizens shoot and kill at least twice as many criminals as the police do every year in this country (1,527 to 606).

- A 1996 University of Chicago study concluded that states which passed concealed carry laws reduced their murder rates by 8.5 percent, rapes by 5 percent, aggravated assaults by 7 percent, and robbery by 3 percent.

- According to the National Safety Council, with guns being used 2.5 million times a year in self defense against criminals, firearms are actually used more than 80 times more often to protect lives, rather than to take lives.

- A 1979 Justice Department study entitled Rape Victimization in American Cities, concluded that of more than 32,000 attempted rapes, 32 percent were actually committed. But when a woman was armed with a gun or knife, only 3 percent of the attempted rapes were actually committed.

- Another Justice Department study found that 57 percent of felons agreed that "criminals are more worried about meeting an armed victim than they are about running the police."

Increased gun registration is also not the answer. This approach was tried and then abandoned in Canada after the proposed cost of \$2 million ballooned to over \$2.7 billion without showing meaningful results. In mass shootings, the shooter often commits suicide or is killed at the scene by the police, leaving little doubt about the killer's identity or the weapons used. Registration will not help these situations.

While passing ineffectual and most likely counterproductive gun control isn't the answer, Americans clearly want something done. Fortunately there is a proactive and effective course of action that has precedent in the U.S. and has shown to be effective other countries – armed guards in schools.

In October 1998, President Clinton announced the COPS in Schools program. This program ultimately placed more than 6,500 armed police officers in schools before the program was cut in 2005. This type of program is a step in the right direction because it takes a good guy with a gun to stop a bad guy with a gun. We provide armed guards for our politicians. We place armed guards on airplanes. We use armed guards in our banks. Let's provide the same level of protection to our most precious resource, our children!

In a recent Rasmussen poll, two-out-of-three Americans recognize that their constitutional right to own a gun was intended to ensure their freedom. The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 65% of American Adults think the purpose of the Second Amendment is to make sure that people are able to protect themselves from tyranny. Only 17% disagree, while another 18% are not sure.

Not surprisingly, 72% of those with a gun in their family regard the Second Amendment as a protection against tyranny. However, even a majority (57%) of those without a gun in their home hold that view. Many gun control advocates talk of the right to gun ownership as relating to hunting and recreational uses only. While there are often wide partisan differences of opinion on gun-related issues, even 54% of Democrats agree with 75% of Republicans and 68% of those not affiliated with either major party that the right to own a gun is to ensure such freedom.

I have attached several examples and reference sources for you to better understand what I am discussing herein. Please work with your colleagues in the Legislature to create an effective program to protect our schools. Taking guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens is not the answer. An excellent compendium of gun issues may be found at www.gunfacts.org

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Violante

New Haven CT

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