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January 27, 2013

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

In addition to my previous testimony which outlined the obvious legal issues the proposed legislation will face, I would like to address a number of other misconceptions facing the state today.

- New York rushed a sweeping gun control package through the legislative process in a shady, back-room deal that produced a sloppy piece of legislation that requires numerous amendments to remedy. As a result of this questionable piece of political maneuvering, the New York State Sheriff's Association has issued a statement openly criticizing the NY legislature and questioning the legality of the legislation and their desire to enforce it. In fact, several NYS Sheriffs have publicly stated that they will not enforce the provisions of the SAFE Act as it is overreaching, unconstitutional and needlessly puts their deputies at risk. A massive campaign of non-compliance has already begun in NY and may be the undoing of Governor Cuomo's political career. I would urge the Connecticut legislature to be more circumspect, respect the political process, and to understand the potential ramifications of punishing an electorate that has committed no crime.
- In your deliberations, please remember that the Second Amendment has nothing to do with deer hunting or shooting skeet. The founders of our republic had little concern regarding militant deer herds, and as ridiculous as that statement sounds I find it equally ridiculous that our legislators would even make the suggestion that hunting was the reasoning for the Second Amendment. Anyone claiming to support firearms rights for these disingenuous reasons becomes immediately suspect and their arguments void.
- While the current legislation debates the fate of hundreds of thousands of legally owned *semiautomatic* firearms, the State of Connecticut currently allows the possession of *fully* automatic machine guns. One would assume these machine guns would contribute significantly to the crime plaguing certain areas of the state; however these lawfully owned firearms have *not been used in a single crime* in CT.
- The demand to pass gun control legislation before the emotions of the Newtown shootings abate communicates a predetermined result seeking to capitalize on current events to promote an agenda. If this were truly to be a two-way discussion, we would take the time to reflect on the facts rather than force an issue debated on emotions alone. If a waiting period to purchase a firearm is a good thing, so should a waiting period on legislation be.

It has been acknowledged at the federal level and in certain states that the proposed restrictions of semiautomatic rifles and standard capacity magazines will do nothing to prevent tragedies like Newtown or Aurora. Many of the proposals under consideration are mere window dressing that will not make our state any safer and in fact distract us from any meaningful discussions as to how we become safer. I would urge the commission to focus on

legitimate strategies to make our state a safe place to live and not engage in any unproductive witch hunts which only serve to limit our freedoms.

Regards,

Tim Mulverhill