

Dear Legislators,

None of our existing laws and no new laws restricting the use of firearms by law abiding citizens would have changed the outcome at Sandy Hook.

Erosion of 2nd Amendment rights by passing more restrictive gun laws will be ignored by criminals and serve only to reduce the ability of law abiding citizens to protect themselves.

This is *our* country. Government works for *us*, yet **we as individual citizens have a part to play that government cannot do.** We need an initiative which champions the mentoring and guidance of “at risk” young persons by each of us who earn a living and pay taxes. They need our help. After having done volunteer work at some of Connecticut's prisons, I have come to believe that many of those who turn to gun violence and other illegal activity are failing to thrive both in self support financially and in service to community. They have lost their way or have never been shown. Ignorance and fear blind them to the tremendous and enduring satisfactions of paying one's own way and being of help to others. Our society promotes an insatiable demand for instant gratification and constant entertainment. We must reverse this trend of materialistic consumerism and build a culture of serviceful producerism.

Legislatively, we need no new gun laws. Criminals wouldn't abide by them anyway. Learn the facts and act accordingly. For example, FBI statistics show that as gun ownership by law abiding citizens has increased, violent crime of all kinds has decreased on a steady trend and is now at an all time low. Instead, let's put our energies into more treatment and support for the mentally ill and reduce the exposure of our young people to violence in all media, especially video games.

Thank you,
Vincent Roman

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