

To the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group I thank you for your service. It is my desire to shed some helpful light on this matter before your committee. The US Constitution and the rule of law establishes what Congress and the State Legislatures are allowed to do. The Constitution of the State of Connecticut speaks loudly to echo our Bill of Rights.

The effort to disarm Americans is not new. It existed when the USA was only a British colony. Those who wished to remain subjects of the King of England were making just such an effort before the revolution. Being retired Navy, I have taken the oath of enlistment several times. That oath always made me wonder how were we to recognize a domestic enemy of the Constitution of the United States. I believe the answer is found in recognizing those who would violate the Bill of Rights; in particular those who would ignore the rule of law in the Second Amendment. The pressing question before us all, which may be described as the elephant in the room is, "When terrorists or any foreign military power were to start shooting in our streets, do you really want our only defense to be our military and police departments while the citizens are merely targets?" An armed citizen is an integral part of national defense. I believe the best way to prevent a war on our own turf is to be ready and prepared to fight one and that is the ultimate purpose of the Second Amendment.

The proponents of the infringement against the Second Amendment of the US Constitution claim to want safety for people. The news media stated last week that over the last ten years there were 400,000 people killed on our nation's highways. There has been no cry to ban cars to promote safety. There are large numbers of children who are killed and injured while riding bicycles. There are no cries to ban bicycles for child safety. Why then the emotional cry to punish honest law abiding citizens because of the actions of a crazy person or a criminal? Millions of honest gun owners are the best ally government has as an integral part of national defense. Criminals will always be well armed. If we are so safe being disarmed, why are the congress and public servants exempt from Sen. Feinstein's proposal? Is the Connecticut legislature exempt from their proposals? World history records that Dictators first disarm the populous; then, reveal their true colors. Background checks are a good thing; do that. However, what our country needs is men and women holding public office who will obey their oath of office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; particularly the part which states that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed". Violations thereof are described in the Constitution as treason. Violators of the Bill of Rights must be held accountable by facing charges of treason. Gun bans magazine bans and oppressive taxes are infringement. Punish the criminal not the innocent person.

Why, then, have these heinous acts of murder happened in our country of late? Consider this: over the last 30-40 years, our courts have systematically declared atheism to be our national religion. That is God and prayer are banned from public schools, public displays of the Christian memorials are removed, and we have an assault on Christmas. Like it or not and believe it or not, the human race lives by God's rules. When people say to God that they do not want him, He says OK and leaves. Then the people are left with the consequences. Those who have committed these vile acts we are now so upset over are products of an atheist school system with all of the lack of respect for authority and for other people that the absence of God produces.

Yours in the good fight, Willard Bechter 43 Howard St. Newington, Ct.