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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature:

I am a 69 year young firearms sportsman. I was on my high school rifle team in 1956, as well as a bird hunter with a 12 ga. shotgun.

I do not envy your position.....being expected to find a cure for the tragedy on 12-14-12. Being expected to legislate safety for us all, from violence. If we are honest with ourselves, we know that it is an impossible task. It appears that the firearms were stolen from the mother. It appears that the firearms were not sufficiently secured by the mother. We have laws about that too, and few, if any, prosecutions for breaking that law. What new firearm law could have possibly really prevented this tragedy? The crime is in the mind of the criminal. The MIND is the weapon of the criminal. The criminal uses various tools to facilitate the crime. Tools like: fire in the 1959 Chicago school tragedy; fuel oil and fertilizer in Oklahoma City bombing; airplanes on 9-11-01. It seems that only in the case of firearms do folks seek to blame the TOOL, and the NRA. The NRA was ridiculed for suggesting armed guards in schools. Newtown sure has lots of them now. Until you find a way to keep mentally unstable people from being able to legally purchase a firearm, I think guards or armed teachers are a good thing. Maybe it's time for the HIPPA law to take a back seat to NICS.

Does anyone honestly believe that restricting magazines to whatever, and banning aggressive LOOKING rifles will stop someone who wants

to do murder? You propose draconian laws which penalize law abiding citizens.....we are not the problem!! Just review the police report section of the newspapers to see how many offenders have been convicted many, many times of assault, armed robbery, domestic violence – and then released again until they are caught for a murder.....and then to have the charges reduced to lesser crimes in a plea deal!! Why not deal with the criminals rather than focus on law abiding citizens!!? Why are federal firearms prosecutions down 40% with this administration?

Lots of statistics are cited by both sides of the discussion, with folks talking past one another with their pet statistics to shore up their point of view.

The countries that have done firearms registration are a who's who of despotism. Albania, Kosovo, Guatemala, Soviet Union, Germany, Uganda. Millions of unarmed citizens rounded up and executed. Can't happen here? That's what they thought!!

Fix the judiciary. Prosecute criminals. Make mandatory minimum sentences for crimes with a firearm, like 10 years and NO parole. Why even do any parole? Good behavior is to be expected! Give a certificate for good behavior!

Respectfully yours,

Wm. C. Grace