

To the Full Bi-Partisan Gun Violence Task Force Members,

The tragedy of Sandy Hook happened by the hands of a person who by all reports was unstable. Normal people do not just wake up one morning and decide to smash up their computer, shoot their mother in the face and then set out to murder school children and teachers. You cannot possibly propose legislation to attempt to stop this horrific event from happening again **unless you know the full details of what happened!** It wasn't just about guns! We need to take a serious look at how we protect our schools and our children. Meaningless "Gun Free Zone" designations are **NOT** a solution to school security! Every gun owner in CT did not pull the trigger that was pulled by Adam Lanza. **Why, therefore are we to be punished for his crimes?**

We need to take a closer look at the mental illness and drug aspect of this Newtown tragedy. It wasn't the guns ... it was the madness of the man behind those guns that caused the carnage... illegally stolen guns were merely his tools of choice. Mental Health professionals testified this week that more gun laws would not make any difference because mentally ill people, like Adam Lanza, will find and use any weapon to carry out pre-meditated murder. Laws mean nothing to them... just as they meant nothing to Adam Lanza.

Absent today for public view and legislative consideration is the toxicology report and any medical history about the murderer, **Adam Lanza. We need to know about his state of mind and circumstances surrounding his actions in order to get to the root cause of his horrendous actions.** We cannot merely sit back and blame guns for this tragedy. Passing a slew of legislation will accomplish nothing more than disarming citizens and creating more victims and more crime!

There are over 90 bills that have been introduced to the legislative process and most of them punish law abiding gun owners. **These laws would not have stopped Adam Lanza from his rampage.**

The truth is that higher taxes on ammunition wouldn't have stopped Adam Lanza

Requiring liability insurance for gun owners wouldn't have stopped Adam Lanza

If guns were his choice of weapon for his assault, restrictions on the number of bullets in a magazine clip would not have stopped Adam Lanza, because he would have used multiple clips or multiple guns... and may I remind you that he was an unauthorized user... he stole these guns... he did not buy them at a gun show or purchase ammo online.

Banning a specific type of gun wouldn't have stopped Adam Lanza... he brought along many types of guns with him!

None of the legislation being proposed would have stopped this madman from perpetrating this crime. He was a man on an evil mission.. and broke many of the laws we already have... so how will more restrictive laws have stopped him. They wouldn't have! More gun laws are **NOT** the answer.

I truly hope that HIPAA laws are not keeping us from the medical truths that can help determine what prompted him to do such a heinous act. I do not believe that we should be placing blame on guns or be looking to stigmatize people with mental illness. That being said, I think we really need to examine closely what the side effects are of taking certain psychotropic medications.... I want to know what drugs Adam Lanza was taking and how that affected him. We must know if they were a contributing factor for his irrational and destructive behavior. **We must know and understand why he did what he did.** Was he taking illegal drugs too? Was he abusing prescription medication? Was he under the care of a physician? We also need to know who Adam Lanza had contact with prior to his rampage; who or what was it that pushed him over the edge? There had to be something that made him purposefully do the things he did that terrible morning.

I want answers, not just knee jerk reaction, emotionally driven legislation that will do nothing but satisfy the anti-gun lust of certain legislators. Exploiting the deaths of innocent children and devastated families to advance an obvious anti-gun agenda is simply an inexcusable act!

One last thing, I request that any solution and legislation that this Task Force comes up with must **NOT** be hustled through the legislature in any kind of "**Emergency Legislation**" tactic ... You **MUST** allow the public to come out and comment on your bills before you put them forth to the whole legislature for a vote. That is how we do things here in CT. We must **NOT** act in haste and we must **NOT** pass things in the middle of the night and we **MUST** make sure all bills are read and thoroughly understood by **ALL** interested parties.

Judy Aron - West Hartford