

We Are Not The Problem – Now Let Them Know

- By Joe Aiello / January 8, 2013

In my last article (“We Are Not The Problem), I wrote about how past gun control legislation only restricted law-abiding citizens and had no effect on criminals or crime.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that we have our voices heard. And I’m not talking about angry words or veiled threats...that will do nothing for our cause. We need to be united, professional and clear on our stance and we need to let our representatives know what we want done.

If you haven't written your representatives yet, you must act now. Here's the link where you can email all of your representatives at once:

<http://www.nraila.org/get-involved-locally/grassroots/write-your-reps.aspx>

If you need assistance on what to say, here is a draft of a letter I wrote that you could use as a template:

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Due to the recent events at Sandy Hook elementary school we now face renewed threats to our Constitutional rights.

While I understand how painful the loss must be for those touched by this tragedy, blaming firearms or their owners and punishing them is not the answer to the challenges we face as a nation.

We already have laws that were violated by a man who was likely psychotic and heavily medicated. This man was stopped by the mandatory background check from purchasing firearms. He then decided to murder his mother and take her legally owned firearms to commit this tragedy.

If your true goal is to protect our children, then enact legislation that will do that. Banning firearms that are rarely used in crime (less than 1% of the time) is not going to stop such tragedies...as that was proven in 1999 when the Columbine shooting took place under the 1994 ban.

Do something meaningful, please. Make committing the insane easier. Put armed security guards in our schools. But do not strip us of our rights and

property by passing additional anti-gun laws that have historically had no positive effect on crime in our nation or others. If you want to know what points need to be addressed:

- 1) We absolutely want an open dialogue regarding crime (not just gun crime - I still want the ability to protect myself against an axe-wielding maniac...)
- 2) We don't support restrictions placed upon law-abiding citizens. This has never, in history, stopped a criminal.
- 3) We support mental health checks to be included in firearms purchase checks.
- 4) We want accountability in declared Gun Free Zones. It is nothing short of criminal to tell the law-abiding public to disarm, and then do nothing to ensure their safety.
- 5) While not a popular subject, guns are needed to stop a violent criminal. Our entire culture and country is built upon the fact that if you do evil, we are sending tough men with guns to stop you. It doesn't matter if it is on a street corner or on the other side of the world. People don't call the police in the hopes they are sending a philosopher or a politician to come resolve the problem. They want tough guys with big guns to stop the threat. This is why with between 800,000 and 2,000,000 incidents a year where people defended themselves with firearms, I don't want to limit their ability.

Please do not fall into the trap of partisan politics and enact restrictions that have never and will never stop a criminal...yet has proven in the past to restrict, burden and endanger law-abiding citizens.

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Anyone who has ever taken my classes knows that the one thing I preach above all else is "Personal Responsibility". We understand, accept and embrace the responsibilities that come with firearm ownership. It is what separates us from those that live a life demanding entitlements, taking no responsibility for their actions and expecting someone else to solve their problems. The time has come for us to put this theory into action and to not rest on our laurels waiting for "someone else" to do something.

Again, I ask all of you to follow the link, send your letters out, make phone calls and let your voice be heard.

Stay Safe!

-Joe Aiello