

On Feb 22, 2018, at 9:28 PM, George Schaefer
<gsschaefer@gmavt.net<<mailto:gsschaefer@gmavt.net>>> wrote:

Dear Mr. Scott:

Why are you now pushing gun control? Perhaps taking money from outsiders like billionaire Michael Bloomberg? Mr. Bloomberg is reported to have a personal armed security staff of 17 ex-NYC police officers and is always surrounded by at least 5 armed bodyguards. Yet he is adamantly opposed to 2nd Amendment rights for citizens, seeking to curtail them for law-abiding citizens whenever possible.

Gun Control – Is not about Guns, it is about Control. This is a solution where there is no problem. As you should know, Vermont has the lowest level of gun violence in the country, rated #1 in the nation in gun safety. Yet, we have relatively loose gun laws.

Laws do nothing to prevent criminals from getting guns; they just block law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves. Fully automatic AK-47s are very much illegal in France, but the radical Islamic terrorists had no trouble getting them. Adam Lanza is reported to have murdered his own mother and stolen her guns. Yet, if a law-abiding citizen visits his doctor for insomnia, he may find himself on a list of people constrained from buying guns. Bad guys can always get guns. Only good guys are constrained by gun laws. The Legislature should soundly reject all new gun control. We should remember that:

1. History shows that dictators have started with gun registration, then gun confiscation. This includes Fidel Castro, Pol Pot, Mao Tze Tung, Benito Mussolino, Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler and others . First they (the government) come for your guns, and then they come for you!
2. Locations with the tightest gun control laws have the highest rates of violent crime, e.g., Washington, D.C. Chicago, NY State, etc. This is because gun laws affect only law abiding citizens and not criminals – after all, they are criminals!
3. The Parkland shooting had been tipped off to the FBI at least twice. Perhaps the FBI was too busy with other matters to follow up and did nothing. Police had been called to the shooter's house at least 24 times. Conversely, the Fair Haven shooting was stopped because local officials followed up. Good police action.

4. The AR-15 is not an assault rifle. Assault rifles are fully automatic. The AR-15 is not, it is semi-automatic. Also, it has a bullet diameter of only 0.223 inches, and is not considered a particularly powerful round.

We need more security at schools, on-site armed officers as at the State House. We do not need to take guns from law abiding citizens. After every shooting there is an outcry to disarm those who had nothing to do with it! When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.

Please advise if you do not agree.

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