

I want to start off by saying that I do not own a gun. I have many friends that do and have shot guns many times. It is a right given to us by the constitution to bear arms and protect ourselves. Everyone that I know who has exercised that right is a law abiding citizen, has made something of themselves, and contributes to society in a positive way. I happen to live in Cheshire where Dr. Pettit's family was brutally murdered. It happened about 2 blocks from our home. Every time a crime like this happens, whether we personally know the victims or not, our lives are forever changed! Yes, we all want to see a stop put to these mass shootings and crimes of human destruction, but taking guns away from law abiding citizens or preventing them from purchasing a gun legally is not the answer.

If I am not mistaken, it is not so easy to get a gun permit within the current laws that are in place. I believe the process is to go and take a certified NRA course and apply for a local permit from the chief of police. You need to show proof of the completed training, attach a couple of letters (character references) from friends or acquaintances, be subject to a background check, and be fingerprinted. After that you can apply for your state permit and then a concealed carry permit which involves more training. When you finally purchase a gun it is registered with the authorities and can be tracked. I am sure there are other formalities and requirements in place too. I agree with this process and would like to see more time spent enforcing the current laws already on the book.

I am also in favor of new laws that affect the criminals and protect our law abiding citizens. I agree that there is way too much gun violence and would like to see more protection for society put in place like stricter penalties for criminals and help for the mentally ill. If Steve Hayes and Josh Komarsageski were kept in jail Dr. Pettit's family would still be alive. What about Tim Mcvay and blowing up the federal building or the World Trade Center on September 11th. It is not the gun, the fire, the bomb or the airliner that takes lives. It is the sick people behind them. There is no question in my mind that this stuff has got to stop, but unfortunately, it will not stop itself. I ask you all to reconsider the direction you are going in and challenge you to get to the root of the problem, the people who do this stuff. Please put more thought into protecting us from these sick people! I appreciate being able to write this letter and be heard. You are welcome to talk to me further.

Thanks,

Gary Baylor

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