

TRUMBULL COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN CLUBS

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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENTS OF ALL TRUMBULL FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN CLUBS**

In light of recent events, the men and women of the Trumbull County Federation of Sportsmen, representing 13 clubs and boasting a membership of over 1,000 people and their families from all walks of life, wish to make our position perfectly clear.

We are law abiding citizens who participate in shooting sports and hunting activities without incidents or injuries to others, while pumping millions of dollars into this state's economy.

Our members run the gambit from doctors, lawyers and teachers to laborers, factory workers, fast food workers and retirees.

We educate people of all ages and backgrounds crossing all lines of religion, race, economic status and physical condition. We are especially attentive to our responsibility of mentoring the next generation in safe firearms handling. Our mentorship has helped guide many youths to academic scholarships via the shooting sports.

We favor responsible regulations concerning lawful gun ownership. However, we vehemently oppose ineffective and unnecessary attempts to infringe on our constitutionally guaranteed rights. We are certain that most of the new wave of legislative initiatives is ineffective and unenforceable. We see no benefit in their purpose as it pertains to preventing violence by criminals and mentally challenged individuals. These new proposals will only impede the rights of law abiding gun owners, burden law enforcement with activities that will drain their already challenged resources and will clog the legal system ineffectively.

We have watched the news stories out of cities where strict and dramatic anti-gun initiatives are in place and we have noted statistics that have proven these cities have become havens for violent criminal acts that often involve innocent law abiding residents of communities. We watch as those neighborhoods are stripped of their legal rights to self-protection with tragic results and we have seen conscientious 2nd Amendment advocates have their rights stripped away.

Our members will no longer sit back silently while our freedoms are under assault in this state. We will not allow politicians to feed their need for votes with an unchallenged disregard for the rights of all their constituents. We are not interested in whether a candidate is a Republican or a Democrat. Our major concern is now whether a politician supports our rights under the 2nd Amendment by their words and their actions.

The Bill of Rights guarantees our lawful rights to gun ownership and the safe use of a wide array of deeply vetted firearms. We cannot stand by and allow further erosion of those rights under a disguise of a false sense of security. Liberty cannot be exchanged for fake safety.

We seek to work with responsible and honest political leadership and those who are equally and honestly opposed to our positions to discuss and seek to resolve our differences. Fair, frank and honest communication will help us all find efficient and legitimate methods to provide protections for all people at any place we may occupy in this society. However, we will not allow fear and misdirection to serve as tools to strip away our 2nd Amendment rights. The cost of securing that freedom has not only been paid in courts and legislative venues but real blood has been shed by brave Americans and our efforts have to be worthy of their sacrifices.

Dan Padula,

President of Western Reserve Fish & Game Association,  
Recording Secretary of Trumbull County Federation of Sportsmen