



PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Rep John Larson Hosts Anti-Gun Rally

Whips up hysteria about inanimate objects

West Hartford, Connecticut, 12/23/2012:

Connecticut Carry was on hand at Saint John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford where U.S. Representative John Larson attempted to stir anti-gun hysteria in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Congressman Larson wasted no time in attacking his political agenda by giving a speech about 'all of his solutions' to tragedies like the one that occurred in Newtown, but instead spent the entire speech ranting and raving about 'assault weapons', 'assault rifles', 'automatic weapons', 'high capacity clips', and 'background checks'. Congressman Larson apparently didn't think anyone present would recognize the talking points of the radical anti-rights organizations like the Brady Campaign, The Violence Policy Center and the CSGV. These organizations have spent a great deal of time and energy trying to confuse otherwise ignorant people into believing that the modern sporting rifles to which they apply the label 'assault weapon' are somehow more deadly than any other type of weapon. They purposely confuse people about the differences between semi-automatic firearms and fully-automatic firearms.

Congressman Larson conflated the terms above to try and make his constituents believe that he was trying to ban from civilian ownership the automatic weapons that the military utilizes.

Congressman Larson repeated the same line telling his constituents over and over that over 3 million people in the United States possessed 'a Bushmaster'. He then went on to say that 'something must be done'. What Congressman Larson did not bother to mention was that (assuming his numbers are true), that means that 2,999,999 owners of 'Bushmasters' did not massacre anyone on December 14th. Further, he could have mentioned that 'Bushmaster' is one company that manufactures the style firearm he is referring to and that the number is much, much larger. Any conservative estimate of gun owners in America would draw numbers in excess of 100 million people. That is 999,999,999 people that didn't go on a murder spree that day that he wants to punish. Out of those people, conservatively, 4,000 people likely used their firearms in defense of themselves or their property that day as Article 1, Section 15 of our state constitution demands.

When asked if Congressman Larson would seek a quick and complete ban of guns like the gun confiscation in Australia, he replied that he would be in favor of this. He also agreed with a young man that urged him to urge President Obama to act through executive order on banning and confiscating firearms like they did in Australia after he acted through executive order on the 'fiscal cliff'.

Congressman Larson should probably learn about the ideas that he is proselytizing, because Australia has seen a steady rise in violent crime since their gun ban and buyback programs from 1996.

In 2002 — five years after enacting its gun ban — the Australian Bureau of Criminology acknowledged there is no correlation between gun control and the use of firearms in violent crime. In fact, the percent of murders committed with a firearm was the highest it had ever been in 2006 (16.3 percent), says the D.C. Examiner.

Even Australia's Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research acknowledges that the gun ban had no significant impact on the amount of gun-involved crime:

In 2006, assault rose 49.2 percent and robbery 6.2 percent.

Sexual assault — Australia's equivalent term for rape — increased 29.9 percent.

Overall, Australia's violent crime rate rose 42.2 percent.

If Congressman Larson says he is on the side of 'reducing violence' than he is sure taking the wrong road.

Congressman Larson's plan is to make us more like Norway, home of some of the toughest gun laws in the world. There a madman used guns and bombs to wage war for hours against a completely unarmed populace completely unable to defend themselves. This resulted in 77 people dead and 319 injured. Many of these victims were children. If we could learn anything from that tragedy, it is that an unarmed populace gets innocent people killed.

There is another startling revelation in Congressman Larson's preaching. Congressman Larson wishes President Obama would circumvent the legislature and utilize executive orders to ban private property. This is a clear violation to the constitution and to the representative republic we have here. The very suggestion is offensive on many core levels.

Congressman Larson also stated his support for ammunition taxes and bans on 'Saturday Night Specials'. Both of these types of laws, historically, have roots in trying to keep people of lesser means from being able to defend themselves. This is a vile concept. The people with the least means have the most need to be able to defend themselves and their loved ones. Both criminals and people with greater wealth will hardly be affected by either of these kinds of laws.

All the while, Congressman Larson continued to comment on the large crowd that had showed up to discuss his anti-gun agenda, but failed to acknowledge that a significant portion of those people were there to criticize that agenda. The crowd engaged in booing and shouting down many of the people who had the courage to stand up and question the hysteria that the Congressman was trying to stir up with the crowd. With all the talk of the 'reasoned discourse' and 'common sense legislation' that the Congressman kept mentioning, he did nothing when a man was loudly and violently yelled at by one of his constituents

for having the courage to assert that an 'Assault Weapon Ban' would not be a valid solution to what had happened in Newtown.

Congressman Larson repeatedly told his constituents that the "NRA did not come" and yet he had numerous NRA members and representatives of state organizations like Connecticut Carry that he did not invite to this forum and quickly dismissed in entirety. Congressman Larson is right. The NRA did not come. Nor should they. The membership of the NRA hasn't massacred any students and has no responsibility to engage Congressman Larson's hysterical cries to 'do something'. But state organizations like Connecticut Carry do not have a choice. We are under attack by Congressman Larson and others with political agendas.

If Congressman Larson wants to engage 'the other side' like he so vehemently talks about, we left him our contact information. He should get in touch with us and learn why the terms he is using are so offensive to the over 100 million citizens of the United States that he will impact with his witch hunt.

When Connecticut Carry President Rich Burgess called Congressman Larson out for his manipulations of the truth and his intent to stir hysteria, the Congressman tried to retreat and assert that he had simply 'confused his nomenclature'. We know the truth however. The Congressman then followed Burgess' corrections by trailing off that he would 'get the numbers and get back to us'. We invite the Congressman to do so; we are sure that he will be surprised to find out how little he knows about any of the issues he proselytized at this forum.

Connecticut Carry is dedicated to advancing and protecting the fundamental civil rights of the men and women of Connecticut to keep and bear arms for defense of themselves and the state as guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Connecticut.

Contact:

Richard Burgess

President

Connecticut Carry, Inc

Ph: 203-208-9577

Email: rich@ctcarry.com

<http://ctcarry.com>