



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

February 7, 2013

GOVERNOR OTTER'S STATEMENT ON SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

"I can imagine nothing more bitter or heartbreaking than to lose a child."

"The senseless murders of 20 elementary school students and six adults in Newtown, Connecticut, warrant not only our grief and sympathy, but also our concern for public safety. However, that concern must be focused and specific, not general and sweeping. More than 11 years ago, I was asked to join a majority of my colleagues in Congress in supporting the USA PATRIOT Act in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. I refused – not because the loss of life or the acts themselves weren't reprehensible, but rather because I believed then as I do now that exchanging liberty for security is the surest route to tyranny."

"I've heard all the arguments about the Second Amendment being a relic of a bygone era and that our public policies must evolve with our society and priorities. But I believe individual liberty as expressed in the Bill of Rights is the linchpin of our form of government and our viability as a free people."

"Our focus should be on enforcing the laws we have, not on creating new laws and presidential orders that chip away at our freedoms without making our children any safer."

"Taking such actions for the sake of 'doing something' about crimes committed with guns is the constitutional if not the moral equivalent of outlawing objectionable free speech – it might seem like a good idea, right up until it's your speech that's outlawed."

- Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter

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