

As a person who has participated in many Code Red Drills since April 20, 1999, I come before you today as a teacher and a mother.

Please consider implementing gun laws that require serious background checks, annual registration renewal, and limited sales and purchases – of *any* type of firearm. Please consider a ban on military-style assault weapons, a ban on high capacity ammunition magazines, and perhaps even a *discussion* on the production of these absurd weapons by gun manufacturers and the purpose they serve in a non-military setting. (Which is none.)

Just as an armed guard at Columbine was impossible in stopping the carnage there, an armed guard at Newtown would have had the same fate. The only way to stop school shootings, or any shootings for that matter, is to decrease the number of guns on our streets, and show kids that we can create a safe community without shooting our way there. We don't need guns in schools, nor do we need them on our streets.

Enforcing tougher gun legislation isn't a threat to the second amendment, which, let's remember, allowed people to carry muskets in a time when neither blacks nor women had rights. Enforcing tougher gun laws is about preserving humanity. Think hard about the future of this country and vote to implement stronger gun legislation. It's at least a start on a long road to a safer society.

Patti Hoppin Mohler
3-14-2013