

**Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** Bernard Reidy <bernardreidy@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2015 7:54 AM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony SB 1108

Dear Chairman Coleman, Chairman Tong and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Bernie Reidy and I am writing to provide testimony in support of SB 1108,

I am a Father of two children who attend St. Rose School in Newtown, CT. Since the tragedy on 12/14 my children and others in town have endured multiple lock-ins and lock downs brought on by severe threats of violence. Though there were multiple incidents at our school I would like to focus on the one that took place on November 14, 2014.

That day St. Rose School received a phone call from a man who said he was in the parking lot of our school armed with multiple weapons. He told our secretary that he was going to shoot his way into the building, kill everyone in school and then kill himself. With such an immanent threat, our school followed protocol alerting police and initiating the highest level of lock-down.

My son was in the cafeteria having lunch when the lock-down was called. His teacher quickly ushered the class into a closet. The 9 year olds did their best to cram together while the teacher tried desperately to keep the children quiet so no one would know where they were hiding. My son retold his account saying Dad I was shaking so bad and crying I barely could catch my breath.... all the kids were crying for their mom's and dad's and some children even peed their pants! He told me he truly thought he was going to die and never see us again.

My 11-year-old daughter was in science class. Her teacher quickly pulled furniture and equipment in front of the doors and had the class hide behind her desk. Some of the kids began to cry others just shuttered in silence holding their ears and closing their eyes praying they would be spared. Well we know that the incident never escalated further but the damage had been done. My children didn't want to go back to school for days. My son who never wet his bed after he was potty trained started again. My daughter suffers from severe stomachaches and often loses her appetite. My kids have trouble sleeping through the night, often waking to nightmares about someone breaking into their school and shooting them..... as you can see this has severely impacted the mental well being of my children.

No one ever expects or wants such a tragic and heinous crime to occur in their State. But when it does there is a significant amount responsibility that comes along with it. I feel our schools have taken this tragedy seriously beefing up security and adopting new protocols and procedures ....but the one thing that hasn't changed has been our laws! **Connecticut's existing state law does not explicitly single out threats to schools as a crime. Why?! Threats and acts of violence have become an epidemic in this country! It is time that our laws be changed and penalties stiffened to specifically protect our children while attending school.** We owe it to our children, teachers and administrators to do all that we can to help protect and provide a safe and healthy environment. At what point do we say enough is enough! It is time for CT to show our community and our nation that we will have zero tolerance to violence against our schools, our teachers and our children!