

To the Members of the School Safety Working Group,

I will not be available to attend the hearing but would like my testimony added for consideration.

As a Mother and a Grandmother who will have Grandchildren attending Connecticut public schools in the near future, the vital issue of school safety is of great concern to me as I'm sure it is to all of us. The recent mass murder at Sandy Hook might not have happened if there was someone there armed that could have taken out the killer. Gun free zones have proven to be not only ineffective at keeping crime out of schools but have likely created soft targets for criminals who know there will be no one there to stop them. I believe our Children deserve at least the same armed security that we have for Banks, Airports, Court Houses and other places we deem worthy of protection. Aren't our Children worthy of the same? As a Daughter of a Police Officer I had the benefit of growing up always feeling safe and protected by guns. Now as an adult Woman I protect my self and my own Children with a safe and secure armament. My Children too grew up feeling safe at home. They, like I did as a child, learned about gun safety at an early age. I believe programs like the NRA's "Eddie Eagle" Program would benefit all children and should be included as part of a new security and education plan in all public schools. Not so long ago public schools had gun clubs and students were taught gun safety as part of their public education. Those were safer times when children were taught about gun usage and safety and today that knowledge is needed more than ever! We have a duty to protect our children's safety and the best way is to have armed security at our schools. Guns are a part of our American Culture and making new laws that serve only to make it harder for the good guys to protect against the bad, is not only counter productive but senseless, costly and can NOT solve the problem.

Any new laws passed should be about mandatory armed security at schools and not about restrictions on ammo, magazine size or outright gun bans. Again they can not serve the purpose intended. We only need look to the current laws to see that the criminal mind cares less about laws and more about breaking them.

It is my hope that wisdom will supersede emotion so that the very best security for our Children will be the goal and NOT stripping the law abiding American citizen their freedom to choose the very best way to protect themselves and the ones they love.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Amy Lynn Coniam

Manchester, CT

Sent from my iPod

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