

Testimony for School Safety Working Group

Legislative Office Building, Room 2C

Friday, January 25, 2013

Members of the School Safety Working Group,

I will not be able to attend today's public hearing, but I would like to submit the following testimony.

Like everyone I was horrified by the events last December at Sandy Hook Elementary School. My thoughts are with the families of the victims and everyone affected by these senseless actions.

I think everyone agrees that preventing another tragedy is crucial and I would like to make the following suggestions:

1. There should be armed persons at our state's schools as a deterrent to preventing another tragedy. The only realistic way to stop a suicidal maniac from committing mass murder is with an armed person.
2. There should be a mix of uniformed and plain clothes individuals with firearms at schools.
  - a. Uniformed officers will be a visible deterrent
  - b. Spreading knowledge that schools will have Plain clothes officer/security will act to deter violence because individuals bent on causing violence will not be able to visibly know if there is someone present to stop them. This is how the Sky Marshall program works to protect our nation's airplanes and it is very effective.
3. I understand that there is a concern of how to pay for additional security at our schools, but there are several solutions.
  - a. Schools and school districts can share armed resources.
  - b. The state can provide additional funding for security and resource officers to our schools.
  - c. Retired police officers or retired military personnel may want to volunteer to provide additional security.
  - d. Many teachers have CT pistol permits and would be more than willing to carry their own pistol in defense of themselves and their students. Connecticut

should follow the model that was used by our nation's airlines to train and arm pilots

4. I think the current "lock down" procedure as it has been implemented in Connecticut should be reviewed.

a. I understand the logic in some situations of having teachers lock the doors of their class rooms and having students go to the back of the school room, but in some situations it would be better for students to immediately evacuate their school room and run to a designated safe place. This decision should be left to the teacher in charge of the classroom based on the specific situation.

b. I would like to point out that it takes concentration and coordination to hit a target with a firearm. A moving target can be very hard to hit. In many cases I do not think it makes sense to have our children grouped together in the back of a school room and make an easy target for someone whose sole intention is mass murder.

Lastly I would like to point out that while some people will claim that the tragedy at Sandy Hook was only possible because of semi-automatic weapons and magazines that hold over 10 rounds, they are absolutely wrong. If Adam Lanza's weapons were replaced with a pump action shotgun and two revolvers, both weapons that have been commonly available for over one hundred years, the result would have been the same. The first responders arrived at Sandy Hook as soon as humanely possible, but it still took 20 minutes after the shooting started before they arrived on the scene. With no one armed at the school, there was no chance that someone could stop him.

Thank you for the opportunity of having my testimony added to this important meeting.

Regards

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