

Members of the School Security Working Group subcommittee,

I write you today as father who is concerned with our schools safety.

What I see as a contributor factor of the majority of mass killings are so called gun free zones which have one fatal flaw in that it requires that the criminal, mentally ill person be willing to comply with what is in most places a simply request. A gun free zone is only that if buildings are secure, entrances are monitored by security personnel, people are screened by metal detectors and the searching of bags as they do at the CT department of public safety building in Middletown, which is full of armed police officers yet our schools are protected by a boor bell and speaker.

I have spoken with law enforcement and have come to the conclusion that no matter what you do you cannot prevent someone bent on these kinds of brutal attacks in our schools or anywhere for that matter, the only thing you can do is limit the time they have to carry out their attacks and the only way to do that is to match the spree killer with equal force. I do not understand the mindset that having an officer in a school is somehow worse than calling one after people have been slaughtered because they don't want to make schools feel a prison. 1/3 of schools in the US already have security some armed some not. Many schools in CT have had security in schools for years so it s not a new idea.

We safe guard everything else in our lives that we deem important with armed personnel banks, concerts, sporting events, buildings full of police officers, why not our children. I have heard people say is this the world we want to live in, the answer is no but this is the world we live in. I don't want our kids to feel safe, I want them to be safe. Once insane people realize that our schools are no longer shooting galleries the mass killing will stop being a way to for someone to create a legacy in death that they could not accomplish in life.

I believe that each school district must decide for themselves what kind of security is best for them whether it is law enforcement, contracted armed security or the faculty themselves with the proper training. I am not saying that it will prevent someone from trying but it will decrease the odds of success from a guaranteed 100%. However it gets done we need to protect our children with the same commitment we protect our money, sporting events, and concerts.

We cannot over look the mental health side I believe there needs to be some type of intervention for those that need it though school councilors, teachers or other available service.

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