

Dear Representatives and Senators:

My apologies for sending this a second time however I failed to make a notation that it is public testimony. I did not wish that detail to render my comments irrelevant.

Thank you,
Darryl Conner

Original message follows:

Dear Representatives and Senators:
23, 2013

January

Thank you for the opportunity to address the School Safety Task Force membership. Since the killings at Sandy hook, many words have been spoken about its cause and remedy. Addressing remedies that focus on the peaceful and innocent in our society does nothing more than add more victims to the carnage.

With schools a meaningful target for terrorists and the mentally infirmed bent on violence, you should ask yourselves.. WHY? First it is because the schools house a precious treasure, our children. Killings at these locations evoke the greatest emotional response and irrational fear, despite the statistical infrequency of such incidents. The media explodes the attention on these tragedies which encourages others similarly disposed. Secondly, you have made schools “gun free zones,” published it widely, and almost daily reinforce the notion with reports of illogical “zero tolerance” enforcement. Anyone seeking to do harm to others while insuring the least resistance is reminded of school vulnerability too frequently.

The State Police can likely provide the factual details of the killings. A common sense reading of it will allow you to determine the physical frailties of the school structure and its response to intruders. Lacking access to their report I offer the following suggestions based only on media reports and common sense:

- Elimination of the most typical glass entries and replacement with partial structural walls and standard size wire reinforced glass.
- Solid or reinforced interior doors with interior locks and top/bottom bolts and small visual windows of reinforced glass that limit full view of the classroom allowing a safe/shelter area.
- Several points of access to a “panic” button that warns the school of an intruder and automatically summons police.
- Double entries requiring remote visual/audio access to the first doors and presence of an escort for passage through the second.
- Exterior windows on the first floor should have mirrored film installed to prevent exterior observation of the rooms. These windows should eventually be made smaller and of reinforced wire glass.
- NO room should have only a single exit. Once inside the typical classroom, an intruder has all the time he/she wants to create terror. Response time from police will be at least 5 minutes or

longer and no matter what weapon is used, the entire class will be at risk. This reveals the fallacy of magazine capacity and firearm restrictions.

- Finally I would ask you to consider approving armed monitors for as many schools as may choose to employ them. In addition I would ask that you order the DPS to develop a training program and certification for these men/women that is not intended to make their employment more difficult (as was the case with Bail Enforcement) but rather to insure reasonable skills and understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

I suspect the matter of cost will be a factor. While heartbreaking and emotionally wrenching as Sandy Hook was, the fact is that the frequency of school shootings is infinitesimally small compared to other forms of tragic death such as DUI, speeding, gang/drug related killings, child abuse, etc. To what degree does society allocate revenue resources to the physical structure improvement of schools versus employment of armed monitors. Statistically ...yes, I'm asking you to consider the facts and set aside emotions for a moment... could funding be directed elsewhere in the State of CT where a greater number of tragic deaths would be avoided; or better yet, lives saved.

I do not envy your task and I wish you the very best in your deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Conner

Gales Ferry, CT