

To Whom It May Concern:

In the wake of the horrific tragedy at the Newtown school, it is apparent to me that the "First Responders" to an act such as this are the responsible individuals who are at the location at the instant that the act starts. The loss of so many innocent children's lives is truly a tragedy. Equally as great a loss is the deaths of the six heroic adults who gave their lives in their attempt, against all odds, to protect their charges. I would urge you to adopt laws and regulations that will allow all responsible adults to provide for their own self-protection at any location or venue where they have the legal right to be, specifically including public education facilities.

It seems to me that two effective deterrents to this type of violence are, one, the fear of the unknown on the part of the perpetrator of the probable presence of individuals present who possess concealed weapons, and second, the visible presence of firearms, housed in secure containers with restricted access, similar in strategy to the presence of fire call stations and fire hose boxes. These two preventive actions could be a substantial deterrent acts of violence of all types at these locations, whether they be public buildings, schools, universities, and places of business. I would urge you to provide the true "First Responders" with the ability to stop these illegal and violent acts before they have a chance to start and escalate.

Thank you.

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