

Connecticut General Assembly
Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention & Children's Safety
School Security Working Group

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My name is John Chunis. I live in Rocky Hill, CT. I am the father of three grown children, and an expecting grandparent.

The Sandy Hook tragedy leads one to ponder on the perils that exist in a free society and what reasonable constraints can be provided to protect against those perils, without infringing on the freedoms we all so cherish.

Looking forward, we have to ensure whatever actions are taken will accomplish what we desire. Bans on certain style of guns or magazine size would not have prevented this tragedy. Even if Adam Lanza's mother had no guns in her house, whatever made him go over the edge would still have, and he most likely would have killed her with her kitchen knives, then taken those same knives to the school and carry out his evil mission. That situation actually occurred the day before by a deranged farmer in China. (1).

We must ask ourselves then, how does one stop a bad guy with a gun? How does one stop a bad guy with a knife, or a bomb or a home-made flamethrower? I mention these other events because they actually happened at schools in the past (1). Obviously, good sounding laws such as the "No Gun Zone" law or posted signs of such have failed and will continue to fail in the future.

I suggest we look at enhancing the security at our schools with the following actions:

- 1) Use of metal detectors for all personnel passing through the school entrance and X-ray machines for all carry in bags.
- 2) Staff each school with two armed police officers or security guards and a security station at a suitable location, equipped with video monitoring screens of all school entrances and other sensitive areas. One guard covers the station and the other guard performs a rove of the premises. Call them "resource officers" if you like.

If this action had been implemented at Sandy Hook prior to the tragedy, it most likely would have prevented it. Once these guards are established, they will become accepted as routine and provide peace of mind to the students and faculty.

This action would also help reduce drugs within our schools and inter-student violence such as bullying that we all know remains a serious problem.

Some will say that the cost of this action would be prohibitive. We appear to have hundreds of millions of dollars available for things like the Bus-way project and Bioscience initiatives. Are these more important than protecting our school children from harm? I don't think so.

I appreciate your time and allowing me to present my views. Thank you.

(1) References:

12/14/12 - Chengping, China, 22 children and 1 adult stabbed.

06/11/64 - Cologne Germany, 8 children and 2 adults killed by a man with a homemade flamethrower.

05/18/27 - Bath Michigan, 38 children and 6 adults killed by a man with a homemade bomb.