

To: Bipartisan Task Force On Gun Violence Prevention And Children's Safety

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary was a terrible occurrence, and my heart and sympathy goes out to all of the parents and family members who lost children and loved ones.

The perpetrator of this awful act used guns taken illegally from his mother who legally owned the guns. He clearly had a history of mental issues. Like any criminal, he found a way to perpetrate this tragedy despite the laws.

I am opposed to any laws that further restrict the constitutional right to own and bear arms. Further restrictions on law abiding gun owners are not the answer. In fact, such restrictions invite criminals to act more boldly if they know that households are unarmed. The criminals do not care about the law. They will always find a way to illegally obtain weapons.

I recommend the following approach to help prevent a recurrence of this tragedy:

1. Implement better school security measures throughout the state. Things such as bullet proof glass or wire reinforced glass on all first floor doors and windows would have helped prevent easy entry by shooting through the plate glass which shatters.
2. Have an emergency lock down procedure which locks all interior and exterior doors from entry within seconds.
3. Set up security procedures with the advice of police and/or professional consultants.
4. Have periodic drills to practice these security measures for the students, teachers, and staff.
5. While these measures are being put into place, have an armed officer at each school. Consider having such an officer at each school permanently.

The answer is not to restrict the right of law abiding citizens, but to be more realistic about school security.

Article 1, Section 15 of the Connecticut Constitution: "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state"

Respectfully,
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