

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing you today because of all the recent events that have taken place. A number of issues have been brought up since the horrific tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. I had hoped that after a little time that cooler heads would prevail and that sensible measures would be taken to keep our children safe. Unfortunately, it appears that nothing is being done to ensure the safety of our children.

I'm a resident of Thomaston, CT with three children one of which is a kindergarten student. The town stationed a Police Officer at each of the town schools until the Christmas break. For that week following the tragic events in Newtown all the school children in town were given the same protection that politician's and elitist's children are given at their schools everyday. After the Christmas break the Police Officers were no longer stationed at the schools. This type of inaction is absurd to say the least.

I feel that there are a few actions that can be taken to ensure the safety of our children. First, there should be armed security guards at all schools in this country. Second, the ban on guns in school zones should be lifted. When someone as evil as the Newtown shooter decides to do something as horrific as he did they look for places where there will be no resistance, i.e. gun free school zones.

Third, there should be a volunteer basis program set up for school employees to be trained and allowed to carry concealed in the schools. This could be modeled after the program that the airline pilots use and have used without incident since the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001. All of these recommendations have one objective, keeping our children safe.

The other issues that have been brought up is the all out attack on the Second Amendment. Studies have shown the gun control laws don't work. Over the past twenty years violent crime is down by 49% yet gun ownership is up and the amount of guns owned has nearly doubled. The Clinton administration's Justice Department did a study on the assault weapons ban that they enacted and the result of the study established that the ban did not work. Not to mention that "assault weapons" are only used in a modest fraction of all gun murders. I can list thousands of stats that prove my case, less than 10,000 gun related deaths per year vs. 120,000 accidental deaths caused by doctors per year. Where is the witch hunt on doctors?

The other myth being pushed by the current administration is the ban on high capacity magazines. The number of rounds is irrelevant. It takes less than a second to change a magazine so why would you limit what could be carried for defense or target shooting? I would like to point out two recent events on magazine capacity one was a home invasion in Georgia where a mother and her two children were hiding waiting for the police to arrive. The intruder found them and the

mother shot the intruder five times in the chest and face but he didn't stop there. He was still able to flee the scene. There is a drug problem in this country and when a drug crazed lunatic is looking for his next score he will stop at nothing. The other incident I want to point out is New York States unwillingness to look at the real issues and pushing through legislation that now has every law enforcement agency in their state carrying illegal fire arms because of the magazine capacity.

I hope these hearings will produce sensible legislation that does not infringe on the rights of the people. I noticed a state bill calling for 50% tax on ammunition. This is just an attempted money grab by the state and does nothing to make ours schools safer. Like most gun control measures they only hurt the law abiding citizens. We need to have stricter enforcement of the laws already on the books. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Lahey

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