

My name is Richard Norbut, I live in Bristol CT. I am writing to you today to express my opinions on new gun control legislation. I know what has happened here in Connecticut is a tragedy and people are feeling very emotional and want to do something now to prevent this from ever happening again. I have two daughters, seven and ten, and just as everyone else I want them protected from all the bad things in this world, but that is not possible. There are evil people out there committing heinous acts on their fellow man and as much as I want them to not exist, they do. People have been screaming at the top of their lungs for years after events such as this that "something has to be done about these guns". That is like saying that something has to be done about the car driving 100 mph and crashing into a school bus and killing 20 kids. Did the car make the decision to go that fast, was it the vehicle manufacturer that made a vehicle that can go 100 mph when it is legal nowhere to do so, or was it the driver. My family and I are avid gun enthusiasts and sportsmen(women). We shoot together and have a great time doing it. We have done nothing wrong yet we are the ones you are looking to punish. Not one of the anti gun bills that I have read would have stopped what has happened. If we want to stop murder we should just outlaw murder, oh wait, it is already illegal. Criminals do not care what you do in Hartford, they are criminals and by that very fact it shows they have no respect for our laws. Over two million times last year people defended themselves with firearms, not police, people. The police generally do not stop crime, they are there afterward to investigate what happened and carry out the administrative process of arresting a suspect. That is exactly what happened in Newtown but without an arrest. If you look at the places in America with the strictest gun laws, Chicago, D.C, etc. they are the ones with the highest crime and murder rates. Why is it that in places where guns aren't allowed there are so many more criminal acts? Why are there so few criminal acts in places where gun ownership is high? Its not the gun, its the person. Adam Lanza was a coward. He chose to take his own life rather than have a confrontation with police. If there had been armed security in Sandy Hook he might not have even tried. When I see people on TV who say they don't want to turn our schools into fortresses or that it "would cost too much" (ARE YOU KIDDING ME?) it angers me. If I want a fortress anywhere it is where my kids are. I want them as safe at school as when they are with me. I may not be able to stop all bad things from happening but I can sure make it very difficult for anyone that tries, unlike the unarmed Dr. Petit. As for the money. I always say that you show your true beliefs by how you spend your dollars. The bank near my house has an armed security guard in it all day. The truck that picks up the money has two armed security guards in it. I go to a ball game, armed security. I go to a show, armed security. I go to my kids school, a gun free zone so I can't bring my sidearm unlike Adam Lanza who chose not to obey that law, and open the door and am greeted by a very nice 63 year old grandmother asking "how can I help you". It also angers me to know that most school protocols for a lock down with a shooter in the building is for the teacher to close their glass classroom door, huddle the children in the corner, and wait for the police. How many more children and teachers would be alive today if they did what their god given instinct told them to do and run. The fight or flight instinct is there for a reason. You have already taken away their ability to use their fight instinct by making it a gun free zone and now the administration has taken away their flight instinct by saying the rule is to stay and wait for help instead of going out a first floor window or out a back stair. I encourage you to concentrate more on school security and mental health as that is where the problem lies, not with the guns in my safe. And please keep in mind that as a group I have NEVER seen so many sportsmen take an interest in legislation as I have in the last month. We will be watching, and we will be voting.