

Dear Members of the School Safety Working Group,

I am a Connecticut resident and the mother of three young children. My eldest is a first-grader in a New Haven public school. Like many, the shootings in Newtown left me shaken, scared, and deeply sad. Among the many measures you may be considering, I would urge you not to support those that would place weapons, armed guards or officers in schools. The mantra that "the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun" is simplistic and misguided, and I fear it would only lead to further violence and tragedy. For children, school must remain a place of learning, a place where they can be children, and a place free from fear. I do not believe that arming schools will make them safer - at worst it may lead to further tragedies, and at best it responds to and feeds a climate of fear that will only be harmful to children, families, and communities. Please reject any proposals that would involve the placement of guns in schools as a "safety measure".

Sincerely,

Shaila Seshia Galvin