

## Adam Pacchiana

Thank you everyone for your time and allowing me to speak. My family has lived in Newtown for 20 years and Sandy Hook for the past 10 years. All three of my children went to Sandy Hook School where we have fond memories of top notch teachers and administrators.

I am here to make a simple point about a complex set of issues, and that is: Our current system is not working and something needs to be done. There has been a steady decline in regulation over recent decades regarding mental health care, guns and exposure to violence that have converged to create a dangerous and untenable environment for the most precious part of our society – our children.

If the shootings at Columbine, Virginia Tech and Sandy Hook Elementary are not enough evidence that we need change, I hope the six shooting at our nation's schools or the 1,421 deaths from gun violence that have occurred since December 14, 2012 would force our lawmakers to look at the dysfunctional lack of rules that do not serve to protect our citizens.

We must have meaningful dialogue and we must have change. All parties should express their concerns but the loudest does not get to dominate the conversation any more. If any faction is unwilling to compromise they effectively remove themselves from the debate. Change must happen and every day we wait, more citizens die.