

on December 14, 2012 as the details of what had happened in Newtown, my heart broke. I was sitting at my house listening to the unfolding news and I had the same state of profound sadness when I hear of the senseless murder of anyone.

Now that the details, for the most part, are known to us the first reaction from our governing bodies is to summarily ban weapons from the hands of legal gun owners. With the state and the nation as a whole saying this is in the memory of the lives lost, especially the children. The President himself stated "Are we prepared to say that such violence visited on our children year after year after year is somehow the price of our freedom". Yet looking back to April 15th, 1995, 168 people lost their lives when individuals (I refuse to acknowledge their names) detonated a bomb. Nineteen children, some of whom had not seen a first birthday, died in that event. I still remember the image of the firefighter carrying a baby in his arms out of the rubble. In the aftermath of that day there was no call for legislation, no new regulations and we did not require fertilizer sales to be regulated and/or banned. We tracked down the persons involved, one is in prison and the other was put to death. Quite honestly that event has faded into history, we can't even name one person who died that day.

Now since Sandy Hook CT. The cries for an "Assault Weapons ban" are loud and clear coming from people who have been, unfortunately, crying wolf for a long time. Now, I'm sad to say have a convenient scapegoat, for action that in the end has nothing to do with the reasons for this heinous act and even less to do with preventing future deaths. Our legislature would never dream of imposing a "50% tax on gasoline" to stop deaths on our highways and roads, whether that be the result of accidental or nefarious means. Because common sense prevails and lets most of us know, action of a punitive sort against good drivers will have little bearing on the outcome.

The actions by, not only the State legislature but by the Federal Government, leads me, as a constituent, to believe that death by a firearm, specifically, a so called "Assault Weapon" takes precedent as to our attention than any other method. That people who die by implements other than a specific firearm, don't seem to count. They do not count in our outrage, our consciousness and our movement to action.

The shame of it all, for me, is that this is the only answer that our governing bodies have come up with. A horrific tragedy has been exploited for many different reasons. Very few, of the proposals under consideration, have anything to do with safety and the prevention of death...regardless of the implement. There is a moment here to truly change things for the better of all of us. This misguided attack on those who, tirelessly, follow every rule that you impose is not the answer. Any person(s) with common sense that doesn't have a social agenda

and/or political motivation knows this.

Some thoughts....All gun crimes should be federalized, that move will ensure that the "three strikes" rule will always apply even at the state level. Firearms transactions, including private sales between individuals, should be done by an authorized FFL dealer. The so called "gun show loophole" has very little bearing, Connecticut has very defined laws when it comes to the transfer of firearms. The term "Gun Free Zones" is the pinnacle of an oxymoron. A majority of "mass death" incidents occur in "Gun Free Zones". Instead of vilifying us there is a golden opportunity presented here. There is a massive volunteer force that would gladly give their time to protect children, because many of them are parents. Instead you are making us criminals, or may perhaps trying to shame us by putting together legislation to make permit holders names and addresses public. I hope the incident in Westchester County, New York has shed some light and perhaps some insight into how dangerous an idea that is. Both socially and politically.

I would like to put a cap on this with a terrible truth. If the incident at Sandy Hook had occurred, using any other method, we would not be discussing violence, guns and/or mental health. But, a number of people would have still have been murdered.