

Barbara Bloom
25 Philo Curtis Rd
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

I have pasted below and attached my opinion, for what it is worth:

WE ARE SANDY HOOK WE CHOOSE LOVE

Although I was not at the school, the Sandy Hook tragedy has shaken me to the core. My family has lived in Sandy Hook for more than 100 yrs. I attended Sandy Hook School, as did my son. That being said, I am trying to take a completely objective view about how to prevent another tragedy like this from happening again- anywhere. I believe that the heart of the issue is mental health and getting people, children and adults alike, the treatment and help that they need. That doesn't just mean professional help. It also means improving our sense of community and reaching out to those who are being bullied or even ignored. Newtown has shown the world that we are an incredible, close knit community, and yet Adam Lanza was part of this community. The thought of him spending so much of his time in the basement, alone, playing violent video games is very disturbing. I believe that it seemed clear to quite a few people that he needed help. I can't help but wonder how he was treated. I am not excusing him in any way for his actions. He became a monster. I just wonder if society could have prevented him from becoming a monster. I know we can't prevent evil altogether, but trying should be our goal.

The gun control issue, I believe, is the result of people desperately wanting an easy and quick solution. I have heard many people say that it is at least a band-aid on the problem and at least a start. I respect and even understand both sides of this issue, but I feel that a gun ban of any kind would create a false sense of security. I am for gun registration and thorough background checks and waiting periods. (This should include rifles). While I am a firm believer in the 2nd Amendment, I would be willing to sacrifice a little by banning semi-automatic weapons and 30 round ammo clips if I thought it would help (much like I am willing to give up a little of my right so we can be safer on planes by being searched- for the safety of all). Unfortunately, I do not think it would help at all. A gun or ammunition ban of any kind will NOT keep these guns out of the hands of those who want to do harm with them. It just won't. People will have them anyway, even if you think there is no need for anyone to. It would greatly increase the illegal arms market and do more harm than good. It would give those in favor of it a false sense of security and it will anger those against it by making them feel our government is going down a slippery slope and eroding one of our Constitutional rights.

The bottom line is, when someone like an Adam Lanza wants to do harm, they are not going to pay attention to the laws, and no law will stop them. Even if he didn't have access to a gun, he could have built a bomb with easily accessible materials and instructions from the Internet. A bomb could have killed far more people in less time, and he wouldn't have even had to get into the building to do it.

I say we let law enforcement and the judicial system concentrate on enforcing the laws already on the books, and all of us can concentrate on how we can make the world a kinder, gentler place with an even better sense of community. We are our brother's keepers. Reaching out and helping one another isn't just a nice thing to do, it's the right thing to do.