

For the record I am Bill Hemby and am an Elder at Newtown Christian Church

As some of this committee will realize, I have been at all three previous hearings; spoke at two of them and have submitted electronically for yesterdays as I could not continue due to my physical limitations.

Let me say first I did text and check my E-Mail during testimony. I see no fault in those who did likewise over the course of nearly 30 hours of the hearings. Senator Bye and I disagree, yet we have not been disagreeable. And during yesterday's heroic testimony of family members, I saw the good Senator give comfort to a state Representative. I thank you here and now publicly for your compassion.

However, I did just learn that the completed Sandy Hook report will not be available until June. Yet these public hearings and committee's findings, and even laws could be enacted long before then....
Asinine

The first hearing showed glaring safety issues. While Newtown did follow and implement best practices of the time, we learned other things can and should be done to the physical structures, and I beg of you not to make them public!

We also learned RSOs have a dubious record. There was in fact one on duty and on the property of Columbine High School at the time of that shooting. What's more, this is at a cost of over 100,000.00 dollars per year per officer and will take well over ten years to fully train and implement. Really - tens of millions of dollars per year for a questionable program.

On the mental health issue ...I give up... there is no clarity. Some said they had plenty of funding and a surplus of beds; others said the opposite. They all said we cannot stigmatize the patients or they will not seek the help they need. Two of our own townsfolk have proved to me through their words and tears they cannot access the help they need for their children.

The only thing I have seen that I believe that will actually provide for the safety of the children in school would be to do as Texas has done. I have no belief this will happen even in the face of overwhelming support as we witnessed Tuesday. What was equality witnessed is the prejudice of this committee.

And truly submitted with respect,