

To whom it may concern:

I would like to respectfully voice my opinion on gun violence prevention in the schools. I believe that armed guards should be at every school. I've heard reasons for and against and would like to address the cost aspect of manning our schools with armed security. It is NOT cost prohibitive when you consider that the taxpayers have funded thousands of dollars to research a shrimp on a treadmill, funded a million dollars so that an inmate could get a sex change, and GIVE 16 aircraft and 200 tanks to Egypt. Just to name a few. Also the annual salary that I hear floated around to hire an armed guard would be \$50,000.00 which to me is excessively high considering that a school year is only 180 days and a school day is only 6 hours long. I think that \$35,000 to \$40,000 would be more in line. What is the cost of one human life? We CAN and SHOULD secure our schools with armed guards.

Also as a gun owner and law abiding citizen, I feel that gun registration, putting a punitive tax on ammo, and banning assault rifles will accomplish NOTHING to stop the next shooting spree. I will admit that background checks don't sound all that bad, but we HAVE that now. You can't buy a firearm unless a call goes to Hartford first. Thanks for listening---Bill Walden