

To the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group:

On Friday, December 14, 2012, approximately three million, five hundred ninety thousand Connecticut residents did not enter a school building and shoot twenty children to death. I say this not to make light of the atrocity committed that day, but to make a point. Every single restriction that has been submitted to committee for debate would have impacted only those people who would never commit such acts.

Whenever such violence is brought upon innocents, we focus on how the mayhem was committed, and try to create laws to prevent the same from happening again. Time after time, this has failed. I propose to you that we must look elsewhere for solutions.

First, I suggest that we stop believing that "just one more law" restricting firearms will fix the situation, as though criminals and evil persons will be swayed by judgment. Everywhere that strong gun control has been made law, mayhem and death have followed. Clearly, repeating the failed policies of the past is not an option.

Second, I suggest that we look not at prevention, but at mitigation. Since we know that the truly determined criminal cannot be stopped, nor can the acts of the deranged or impassioned be predicted, we must give people as many options as possible to deter or defeat them before serious harm can be done.

Finally, I suggest that we adopt policies with a deterrent effect. There is ample evidence to suggest that a sign announcing that "This is a gun-free zone" acts as an attractor to the evil and the insane. While laws that threaten incarceration aren't likely to effect the decisions of would-be mass shooters, limiting the pool of potentially defenseless victims may. We ought to be planting the seeds of doubt of universal concealed carry in the would-be shooter's mind. If even one mass shooting could be prevented, it would be worth it.

I am a law-abiding citizen. I may or may not own guns. I don't want to kill people. But I understand that there are bad people in this world who are willing to do bad things to me if the opportunity presents itself. Please do not limit or deny me the ability to choose the implements of self-defense that would be most effective in preserving my life.
Thank you.

Brian Corbino

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