

To the Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group and other Committees as well,

As the mother of teenager Kaelan Paton who died trying to rescue a friend against great odds on June 16th, 2009, I ask that all adults, parents, teenagers and children and community and governmental leaders Voluntarily take strong measures to promote safety and non-violence at all levels.

The PLANS (People Living and Learning with Agreements and Networking through Schools and Societal Laws and Practices) we live by and create impact everyone.

Regarding availability of guns, the stricter measures should prevail since many countries do not allow for private gun ownership, and certainly not the kind of assault rifles which fire many rounds.

In addition to new laws promoting more comprehensive background checks for mental health and domestic violence issues that could be linked to inappropriate gun ownership, there should be a comprehensive website for all citizens in the country to readily access for understanding human development of young children and ongoing through the decades.

Too often parents and other adults are abusive toward children or others in their care--the handicapped, elders, and or the infirmed or even other family members--in the name of discipline or punishments and adhering to strict guidelines of their own making.

All youth should be required to have bi-annual exams for health, safety and living conditions which could include a check to see that guns are properly stored. I would be grateful to work with others to promote safety in many 'early intervention' ways to make certain all youth are properly supervised, similar to what is required by every state when divorces or custody plans are put in place legally.

All adults and parents need to understand the responsibilities of being a parent for youth under age 18 and in coordination with schools, sports or camp programs as well as private individuals caring for their own children or others. We already have the more stringent laws regarding driving and not serving alcohol to minors.

People need to know they do not have permission to give other people's children(or even their own if not supervised and approved by local guidelines) to do dangerous activities, such as the one that claimed our 16-year-old when he was at the Housatonic River near the raging Falls in Falls Village CT on June 16th, 2009 with a group of high school friends. All people need to be willing to report dangerous plans or situations to their schools, police, fire department and certainly other parents without feeling they are overstepping their roles. Women and children particularly need encouragement to let others know when they are being bullied, mistreated, isolated socially and physically, threatened with separation from their children or support people and deprived of autonomy.

Let US-All review <http://www.domesticviolenceabuseandchildcustody.com/> for the most current information of the underground war against protective mothers who often lose access to their children when disclosing abuse. A thousand mothers are killed each year, and another 500 women by their so-called 'partners or spouses'. About 200 children are also killed by men in their mothers life or their own fathers. Almost half of the police calls are for family-based violence which too often prove fatal for not only the women and children, and responding officers, but similiary to Adam Lanza, result also in the man killing

himself as well. The idea that the man has 'ultimate control' over "his" wife, woman, children, home and assets needs serious review by the media.

The bonus materials on <http://www.shouldistayorshouldigo.net/> could help all men, and yes, woman and parents consider whether they are trying to have power over others versus power with others. The information on <http://www.lundybancroft.com/> should be required for all school and community leaders as well as read by all parents and adults, as well as youth to gain life-saving knowledge and insights into breaking cycles of violence and control dynamics in homes, schools, workplaces and society.

Our heroic son Kaelan Paton had a few moments to try to do all he could after saving two friends when he was on shore. Then he made a desperate attempt to reach another friend who could only be saved from someone coming down 80' on a rope from above, which thankfully occurred by rescuer Skip Kosciusko, resulting in his friend's rescue.

While we debate these difficult issues of safety and gun control, let us each try to live with a greater appreciation for the values of treating others with kindness, courage and love as well as making plans for all people to work toward respectful and responsible communication and accountability for those in our care and in our communities.

-Catherine Palmer Paton, Falls Village CT, thinkingapp@gmail.com, 860-626-5199