

My name is Chris Maida, I live in Westport, CT, and I want to voice my opposition to the punitive laws you plan on discussing in Hartford next Monday. Restricting/penalizing ammunition sales and outlawing most guns will only affect those who follow the law and will not stop someone bent on murder from getting them illegally. What does a felony charge for gun possession mean to someone who intends to commit mass murder? How much ammunition can one person carry? Even if you were able to somehow prevent him from getting illegal guns, will the next deranged person run people down on the sidewalk with their car? The problem is not the guns, it's the people.

The real question to answer is WHY are so many people committing mass murder? Is it the same reason why a man rip the face off a homeless person in Florida? Is one of the causes for this increase in senseless violence the drugs that are now offered to cure various ailments, but may also cause psychotic behavior in some people? Has a study ever been done to see if there is a link?

Also, I do NOT think arming teachers with guns is the answer. However, I do believe having trained professionals on site is. After all, what stopped the airplane hijackings after 911? What stopped the government building attacks after Oklahoma City? There are many highly trained people coming out of the military looking for jobs. Hiring them for security at our schools is a more reasonable approach and one I believe that will prevent further school shootings like Sandy Hook. It's worked in both our airports and government buildings, why not the newest place we are at risk?

We, of course, must prevent further tragedies. However, please don't punish law abiding citizens for the actions of a misguided mother who put her guns in the hands of her mentally handicapped son. Please do not put us and our children in harm's way because of her bad decisions. Have you forgotten about the home invasion in Cheshire in 2007? What about the recent home invasion in New Canaan and other towns?

Please find and treat the problem, not the present means for such tragedies, and protect our schools the same as we now protect our airports and government buildings.

Thank you,

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