

My name is David Adamez, of Killingworth, Connecticut. Thank you for allowing me to express my viewpoint.

Words cannot express the sadness every single one of us feels over the tragedy at Newtown. So many wonderful lives, so many wonderful hopes and dreams, have ended in so much cruelty. As we watched the news and saw the images of the slain of Newtown, we noticed the same twinkle in a fallen little girl's eyes that we see in our own daughter's eyes. When we see a photo of a smiling young boy who is no longer with us, we recognize the smile on our own son's faces. As we weep in anguish from what happened to so many of our neighbors, we all ask our legislators, "What can we do to make sure these tragedies will never happen again?"

But instead, what are our legislators giving us? Laws that do nothing to stop such tragedies and do everything to hurt innocent people that pose no threat to society, all for no other reason than because they happen to own a gun. This is because it is only the law abiding citizen, not the criminal, who will comply with any gun restrictions this legislature enacts, so it is only the law abiding citizen, not the criminal, who will suffer from them. Rather than punishing criminals for abusing the trust society has given them, our legislators are abusing the trust their constituents have given them because they are punishing law abiding citizens instead. This is not leadership. This is impotence.

I'm sorry if I sound rude, and I apologize if I sound angry, but you need to understand something. If I were to call anyone in this legislature a potential rapist, or a potential drunk driver, they would be offended over the insult to their character and rightfully so. So perhaps you can understand my position when I say I am offended over the insult to my character by your presuming I am a potential murderer when I don't even have an overdue library book against me. I as well as many of your constituents look to you to provide us with common sense regulations that work to prevent criminals from committing these crimes, but when we see bill No. 5268, which puts a fifty percent tax on deer hunting ammunition, this is not it. When we see Bill No. 5112, which publically embarrasses law abiding citizens like myself and treats us in the same way the law treats sex offenders, this is not it. When we see bill No. 122, which bans a wide range of firearms from double barrel shotguns to six shot cowboy guns, this is not it. Instead of giving us laws that work to reduce violence, all our legislators are giving us are laws that make it excessively prohibitive for law abiding citizens to possess firearms regardless of whether it actually does anything to reduce crime.

I should not need to point out that even though tragedies such as Newtown show us that something needs to be done to prevent this from happening again, the home invasion in Cheshire still proves there is a legitimate need to have firearms for self defense and that right should not be infringed upon. The enemy of a peaceful society is the criminal, not the woman walking to her car alone in an empty parking lot at night. Every study that examines the issue of crime confirms that the large majority of crime, up to eighty five percent, is being committed by repeat criminals, so if our lawmakers are unable to explain to us how publicizing the names of law abiding gun permit holders and placing a fifty percent tax on deer hunting ammunition will stop street gangs from murdering each other over profitable drug territory, then our lawmakers might as well be doing nothing, for all the good their efforts are going to do in the end.

In the days ahead, there is going to be much debate over gun control legislation. I ask this legislature to remember that in addition to their responsibility to provide common sense leadership on this issue, it is also their responsibility to avoid overzealous knee jerk reactions that only give a cosmetic appearance of action and which does nothing to resolve the problems they set out to address. We have already seen from the days of prohibition how overzealous legislators simply handed the reins of power to criminals at the expense of law abiding citizens' lives with short sighted laws. In the days ahead, I as well as the rest of your constituents hope to say to you "Job well done." We hope we do not have to say to you, "We told you so".

Thank you.