

On January 30, 2013 I attended the final public session at Newtown High School hoping to speak on behalf of gun owners, but time expired.

I wish to share a few points of view to assist your committee with tough decisions that lie ahead.

I've broken my email into a few sections.

A. Gun show loophole and background checks B. High capacity magazines C. Gun-free school zones D. Black market value of firearms and high capacity magazines E. National database for guns F. Media exposure G. Summary

I am a resident of Bethel, CT and a 14 year permit holder. I also have a wife and two small children ages 4 and 1. I am a college graduate, tax payer, and responsible gun owner who has absolutely no criminal record, no record of family mental illness, and feel existing gun laws are enough if they are enforced quickly and consistently.

A. I do admit to be naive about the "gun show" loophole because all of my purchases have required identification and a call to the State Police to confirm I have nothing pending that would inhibit my ability to possess a firearm. If closing this loophole would help public safety, I'm open to supporting that change 100%.

B. As a gun owner, I understand the responsibility of owning, possessing and carrying a loaded firearm. I do all of these to protect myself and my family from things I can't control. A few things that come to mind are armed robbery, home invasion, burglary in progress when arriving home, active shooter at a mall or store or thwarting off someone's attack. All of these examples require training, split second decision making, and enough ammunition to end the attack. This is why I feel limiting capacity in any way to be a bad idea. I don't choose when the attack is over, the criminal does. If two people enter my home, I need enough ammunition to end the attack while possibly running away from my ammunition source while trying to hide my family and dialing 911. I'm great at multitasking, but I'm sure I'll miss a few shots in the process. I do not want to be at a disadvantage to a criminal in my home or anywhere else for that matter. This tragedy has caused an outpouring of concern on both sides of the fence, but ultimately the people who should not be punished are law-abiding gun owners like me in the process.

Many concerned citizens at the hearing at Newtown High said lower capacity magazines could have saved lives because valuable seconds during reload could allow for people to escape. First of all, a magazine change can take less than 2 seconds so I doubt that would give enough time to save many lives. I've also heard rumors he changed magazines many times with 15-17 rounds left in them? If this rumor is correct, the theory that magazine changes could save lives is wrong because he did reload after shooting only a few more than 10 rounds at least a few times and children were not able to run away. If they did, he probably would have pointed his attention at them first? Limiting capacity to law-abiding citizens might put a family in jeopardy when trying to protect themselves and those circumstances happen much more often statistically than active shooters in schools, malls, places of worship, or businesses.

Responsible gun owners have safes and locks and do their best to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't access them. We do not know how Nancy Lanza had her guns stored. Adam was cunning and if they were locked up, it obviously didn't make a difference. This is a man who shot his mother 4 times and then killed 26 other people. I doubt gun locks, gun-free school zones, magazine capacity, or any other law that ill-equips a law-abiding citizen from protecting his own would have made any difference in this heinous attack. Which brings me to my next point.

C. The mind of a criminal is very creative and complex. Months of planning go into these events. For example, James Holmes bought ammunition, weapons and bomb-making supplies for months before his attack last July. It's very difficult to stop an attack as well planned unless civilians with permits are allowed to shoot back. It sounds like the old west and might be a scary thought to people who don't have experience with firearms, but one permit holder in that theatre could have sent 15 or more bullets back in his direction and could have ended the attack with one of them? Could innocent civilians have been hit in the process? Does it matter when he's trying to kill every person in the theatre? This brings me to my second point. Schools are gun-free zones and I respect that. What should happen is that law should have an exception in place for off-duty law enforcement and permit holders. A criminal will not respect the law, but wouldn't it be a good idea to possibly have someone close by who might have a firearm and can intervene with an active shooter? The intent of the permit holder is the same as law enforcement which is to end the attack and save lives. I'm guessing a shooter won't have a permit and they're intent is to kill as many innocent people as possible. Adam Lanza picked the best place in the country to shoot people and have no interference. Permit holders shouldn't be punished because of a mad man.

D. Black market value of firearms and large capacity magazines. Around the time of the attack on Sandy Hook, a cheap 30 round magazine sold on the internet for approximately \$17.50. A week later the same magazine sold for \$179.00. This is a major problem because having a gun safe is responsible, but it also tells your maid, your painter, your contractor, and any visitor that you own guns. The increased value if Legislation is passed will make home invasions and burglaries more attractive to criminals around the nation and worth the risk for the value of the reward. High powered guns and hi capacity magazines will be easy to find illegally, but will not be available for law-abiding citizens to protect their families.

E. The reason why gun owners are against any type of database is because that information could fall into the wrong hands which could cause danger to families and theft of firearms. This is a very bad idea. We live in a world where hackers are gaining access to credit card companies and government databases more and more. This information cannot be used against us because it has no relevance in keeping our children safer.

F. Media exposure to these events has had some effect on future attacks. The media exposure sensationalizes the event and gives a teenager with either mental defect or lower than usual coping skills an opportunity to be something they've always wanted to be. These young men lack compassion, social skills, and decision making abilities that others have. The media is giving these young men a stage to be as grandiose as they can for their minutes of fame and they will be spoken about for years in our history books. Eric Harris of the Columbine attack was famous for creating different boards for a violent game called "Doom". So a combination of social skills and access to violent games and media exposure are causing this more and more. It has nothing to do with weapons. It has everything to do with Facebook, bullying, video games, movies, news and current events, and mental illness.

G. If our goal is to protect our children and make society a safer place, gun legislation is probably the last thing that should be considered. Changes need to be made in mental health, school security with the use of panic buttons and giving school access to permit holders when they pick up and drop off their kids which could act as a deterrent. Restricting access to firearms and high capacity magazines only restricts access to law-abiding citizens who wish to protect themselves and their families and increases the black market value which doesn't make anyone safer. This is unfortunate, but legislation will not stop the next attack. These criminals will do what they need to carry out their attack without reviewing

the laws they are about to break. At Columbine, Dylan Klebold procured an Intratec 9mm for that attack in 1999. That was in the middle of the 1994-2004 federal weapons ban. Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris also created 99 bombs and luckily only a few detonated or the casualties would have been far greater. Virginia Tech shooter used a semi-automatic pistol for his attack which is the most deadly attack in America to date. Past or future legislation would not have changed a thing in either attack. This is a social issue, not a political issue and legislation will only have an affect by making law-abiding citizens less safe against the criminals who do what they want whenever they want.

Thank you for your time. Being bold, means doing the right thing. I realize their is a lot of pressure from Newtown to ban "assault rifles" and high capacity magazines, but this will have no affect on safety. Increasing terms for the laws we have on the books would be a better choice.

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I have no problem sharing my name, address and phone number, but do not want that information in public record where it can be obtained and used against me by a criminal. My idea of a deterrent to home invasion is not letting anyone know what I hold on the other side of the door.