

Written testimony before the full Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety written by David Freedman, Newtown, CT.

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My name is David Freedman, a father of two from Newtown, CT. I was shocked and horrified by the events that took place in Sandy Hook. Fortunately, my children were attending another school about 2 miles away when the event took place. As with many I was onsite at the Sandy Hook firehouse watching families collect those children who survived and watching those parents who would never see their child again. It will forever be ingrained in my memory of what I observed and experienced that day.

I have never owned a gun and nor will I ever, I think I have only had the opportunity to shoot a pistol once in my life. However, I truly believe in the second amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms. Our constitution is our guide and we should continue to believe in it.

This is a very complicated and complex area of discussion for lawmakers and the citizens. First we must find a way to bring all parties together for a broader discussion which includes the gun companies, lobbyists etc... Our country was started on dialogue and the best way for all of us to come to consensus is to bring everyone together. How I realize this is a difficult task but it is doable.

First and foremost a background check needs to be done and implemented immediately. I have spent 15 years in youth serving organizations and all of the employees must get and pass a comprehensive background check to work with children or even be in the same building as them. Why wouldn't we pass this immediately?

Here is what I propose:

1. Backgrounds implemented immediately for all gun owners and anyone wanting to purchase.

2. Create a team of professionals represented from the Mental Health, gaming and gun industry, NRA, NSSF, Education professionals and representatives from Newtown, Columbine, Aurora – people who have felt the tragedies to work as a team to propose the changes.
3. Ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 3 rounds (Hunters only get 3 rounds to kill a deer)
4. Require permits on all sales and transfers of guns and create a comprehensive database to track
5. Mandatory gun safety class with certification for all gun owners. Create a time frame for completion and if they haven't completed certification they are not allowed to get a gun.
6. Mandatory gun locks on all guns with finger print technology.
7. Mandatory storage of guns in the home so that children and others cannot access them. If found to be accessed without proper storage than the owners would get a felony.
8. All gun laws shall be effective immediately.

Respectfully Submitted

David Z. Freedman

Newtown, CT