

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to recommend that we take measures immediately to keep another "Newtown/Virginia Tech/Columbine" from happening again. It seems the most logical things to do would be:

- 1) an assault weapons ban
- 2) limiting the amount of magazine rounds
- 3) mandating background checks
- 4) redesigning front offices so that support staff can see who is approaching their area
- 5) bringing in programs like "The Challenge" and "Names Can Hurt" (the latter from the ADL, cheaper than "The Challenge") which are workshops that help students learn to think differently about how they treat each other, bullying, etc.

I want to make a few points as to the arguments given by those who do not want to give up their automatic weapons:

- 1) The Second Amendment was written at a time when muskets took a while to reload; who knows what the founding fathers would have thought about having automatic weapons lying around?
- 2) A key word in the Second Amendment is a well REGULATED militia. We need to due our due diligence and regulate ourselves and we are common citizens, NOT a militia!
- 3) Re. people's assertion that the Assault Weapons Ban of years past didn't work: We don't know how much worse things would have been during the last ban had there not been one.
- 4) Automatic weapons certainly should not be used for hunting. If someone can't shoot a deer in one, or at worst, two shots and the poor animal is suffering, why are they out there in the first place?
- 5) Guns need to be locked up at all times, no ifs ands or buts. (I knew a guy when I was growing up who accidentally shot his best friend (dead) because his stepfather hadn't locked up the guns in his house. Unfortunately, humans are fallible and this will keep happening if people aren't more responsible.
- 6) There is something wrong with a world where it's easier to buy a gun than pass a driving test or adopt a kitten.
- 7) Arming teachers is ridiculous. By the time the teacher gets her/his gun out of wherever it is stored or locked up, a perpetrator could have shot up a whole classroom using an automatic weapon. And that's assuming the teacher knows how to use a gun.

(And furthermore, Columbine had a police officer, Virginia Tech had campus police and Fort Hood waswell, Fort Hood! So armed people doesn't necessarily help..)

8) Most people would not get to their guns on time anyway if someone entered a house with an automatic weapon, but the only people who should be keeping their guns on their possession are cops and our military.

9) There should be fingerprinting done on every citizen so that guns, whether bought or stolen, can be traced more easily. At this point teachers are fingerprinted but gun owners are not!

10) Other countries do not have the amount of gun deaths that we do. Gun proponents should look at the statistics (when comparing the same population #s)

11) Even when people supporting gun rights say things will happen anyway, this is not accurate. When someone came into a school in China with a knife, kids still survived!

12) The paranoia from some people defending the Second Amendment is bordering on ridiculous and hysterical. People are saying that the government is trying to "take away our rights," and are worried about how they would defend themselves if they needed to fight again it. Are people really that paranoid? We are not saying to get rid of all guns...

In the end, it seems that ignorance and fear breeds prejudice and hate, and that really worries me. We need to research this issue thoroughly and at least take some strong measures for starters!

Thank you for your time,

Elisabeth Rose