

My name is Frank Whaley. I live in Redding, CT. I have two children, one is in middle school, and one is in elementary school. Like most parents of school-aged children I have a dreaded and haunting feeling each morning as they drive off on their respective school buses, since the massacre on December 14th. Since that day there has been a policeman in each of their schools. Though this is of some comfort, any reasonable person knows that one, or five, or even ten police officers would not have been able to stop that gunman on that morning. His killing machine would have mowed them down within ten seconds regardless of their body armor, or their precision or their training. Many gun lobbyists are calling for an end to so-called "gun free" zones, like schools. But how many guns would make an elementary schools safe? And how many elementary school teachers are willing and able to train themselves in this regard? Don't they have enough to do already?

I ask the gun lobbyists when the next massacre takes place at a hospital, do we then arm and train all of our nurses and doctors? And when this unspeakable act occurs in a church or temple, or mosque, do we then give AR-15s and Bushmasters to the priests, the rabbis, and the imams? The librarians? The ice cream store worker? The guy at the UPS store? The grocery store clerk? Are we all to take up arms?

The answer is no. The gun lobby and the NRA won't listen to reason. They don't want you to listen to reasonable, common sense ideas to solve this problem, like universal background checks, a limit on rounds of ammunition, a ban on weapons designed for military use, mandatory safe storage of all firearms.

Please, we can no longer allow the greed, irrationality and irresponsibility of the NRA to stop legislation that will once again to allow all parents to send their children off to school without fear.

Frank Whaley
Redding, CT