

Dear Gun (People) Violence task force,
Hello, My name is Gregory Droniak. I live in Derby with my wife Jodie and have 2 daughters.

I was brought up with guns and have been involved in firearms, and protecting myself and family with our firearms for over 37 years. My wife and I are Life Members of the National Rifle Association. My wife, daughters, and I support the U.S. Constitution's 2nd Amendment and our right to bear arms.

First of all, we were all tremendously saddened by the senseless tragedy in Sandy Hook.

It completely broke our hearts and the nations' hearts. That community will survive and carry on, and one day be whole again. May those who did not live be forever remembered and may they rest in eternal peace.

Second, the first thing that came to my mind after hearing of this tragedy, is where are the parents of this 20 year old mentally handicapped child and what happened in his life that led to this kind of brutality?

This is definitely a mental health problem and must be addressed and something has to be done. Health officials need to know more about someone like this, his entire life if necessary. If his doctor knew his mother was teaching him how to shoot guns in his mental state, a huge red flag should have gone up and they could have taken action to have it stopped. This is just plain common sense. I am sorry to say, something his mother did not have.

Third, is drugs. What kind of prescribed medication are our children on? More and more I read about anti-depressants being prescribed and how they may cause violent behavior. There needs to be a serious look into this because I have yet to see it mentioned by the national media as a possible correlation between these types of brutal crimes and the use of drugs.

Fourth, I am opposed to "gun free" zones. It may be a feel good law that says this should be a "safe" zone, but is definitely to the contrary. Most "people violence" tragedies have taken place in gun free zones. Columbine, Fort Hood, Virginia Tech, Gabby Giffords in Tucson, Arizona, and more recently, the Aurora theater in Colorado, the Oregon Mall, and now Sandy Hook. These allow criminals to prey on defenseless people at will without repercussions because no one is there to stop them. Which leads me to the next issue.

My fifth point is, did we not learn anything from the Columbine High School tragedy in Colorado in 1999?

Wasn't this the "red flag" being raised for all school systems in America? To protect our children at all costs? No it wasn't at all costs. Nothing was done for the majority of schools throughout our nation that could possibly have stopped such an armed intruder. I propose that there be an armed guard or police officer at every school in our country. From what I read and see on TV concerning this, I understand cost is a major issue. I believe the cost should be shared by the teachers unions, the state, and the citizens of every state for this protection. We need to protect our children.

And if teachers want to carry a concealed weapon they should be allowed to do so and be trained in that weapon. I protect myself every day, why shouldn't they? These

shooters are cowards and look for "gun free" zones. I believe any armed opposition will prevent criminals from doing these kinds of crimes.

My sixth point, All of these crimes I mentioned above should have been prevented. All had ample warnings and red flags, but no one came forward and made the effort to stop them. Even when the police knew of the criminals, as in the Columbine High School shooting, nothing was done. This needs to change. If you "Know something, say something". Parents, relatives, friends, acquaintances, health care professionals, anyone who knows something, must act and say something and then law enforcement needs the power to act if need be. This is similar to the terrorists attack ads which we all see on TV, if you "See something, Say something".

And last but I'm sure not the least, where do Hollywood and the video game makers come into play here? They constantly make and promote movies and video games glorifying killing, mass killings, rape, and murder by firearms, knives, swords and whatever. I believe they play a big part in the perpetrator's actions of these tragedies. Yes, they're not real and yes, protected by the First Amendment, but to mentally unstable people, it probably doesn't take much to set them off and be "like the hero warrior in the movie or game". This also must be looked into and be a part of the mental health equation. Common sense should tell you a mentally ill person shouldn't be playing such violent games. How do you know if they know right from wrong?

I am opposed to the following: new gun control laws restricting my right to protect myself and my 2nd Amendment rights, with the weapon of my choice be it a handgun with 15 rounds in the magazine or an AR15 rifle with a 30 round magazine, any law which would ban more weapons, any law restricting the size of an ammunition magazine to 10 rounds or the outright confiscation of those magazines over 10 rounds which I find the actual idea of this to be reprehensible and goes against the 4th Amendment of the Constitution. I am also opposed to registration of ammunition, higher taxes on ammunition and firearms, limiting how much ammunition I can buy, internet sales of ammunition, and any law requiring me to have liability insurance just because I own a firearm. Also, I am opposed to state wide gun registration for ALL firearms, knowing full well criminals will never register their guns or even comply with all the items I am opposed to and I am also against re-registration of my guns every 2 years.

In closing, rather than expanding previously failed legislation that won't curb criminal violence, but will affect law-abiding gun owners, I urge you to support legislation to enhance school security and improve our ailing mental health system.

And I also ask that you respect my convictions and protect the 2nd Amendment rights of the citizens of Connecticut.

This great country was established on 3 things. Number one is God, which instilled in us moral values and principles to live by. Number two is the will of Americans to be free. And number three is Guns. Guns to protect our freedom. If two of these fail we are no longer America.

God bless Connecticut. God bless us. And God bless America.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Gregory Droniak

NRA Life Member

55 Oranewood West

Derby, CT 06418

203-736-2272