

As we are unable to personally attend any of the meetings, please allow the following to be submitted in the official record as commentary:

Along with the entire nation, we were sickened by the tragedy and evil that fell upon Newtown last December. While we are well aware that children die of a variety of causes every day, we nonetheless have difficulty imagining the horror and helplessness the children and faculty of Sandy Hook felt that horrible day. Adam Lanza represents the absolute worst of humanity. However, the actions of a single entity of evil cannot and should not determine our course as we endeavor to better protect our children and citizens in general.

Since the Newtown tragedy, proposed legislation has been robust at the local and federal levels. Nearly all of the proposed legislation will have no impact on reducing gun violence such as that we have already experienced. The two most frequently discussed proposals, the “assault” weapon and high-capacity magazine bans, certainly would not have prevented Adam Lanza from eventually unleashing his wrath. It is worth remembering that Timothy McVeigh killed one-hundred sixty eight people with a rental truck and fertilizer. Nineteen of his victims were under the age of six. Evil will always find a way. Would it have been more acceptable had Lanza killed using four or more handguns with ten round magazines? I expect all would agree this is a conspicuously rhetorical question. What impact, then, will a ban on semi-automatic rifles and magazines have?

Law-abiding gun owners with AR-type semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines are not the problem. Keeping guns out of the hands of criminals rather than turning the law-abiding into criminals should be the focus. I would, however, not seek counsel from the Obama administration. They have aptly demonstrated enviable gun trafficking abilities.

Respectfully,

Ian S. Gebow
Lisa M. Weppner
North Granby, CT