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Subject: Physical Safety of our children in schools.

Being involved with both information and physical security no single defense would prevent the tragic events in Newtown. Many safeguards were put in place before this action occurred, but have been shown ineffective. Depending mainly on gun control is ineffective. Gun control is only effective on law abiding, rational people. The locked doors were not sufficient for the risk that was presented. Layered security is the best way to prevent this in the future. Our schools are soft targets. The whole premise of security is to make your facility less attractive as a target as another one. Rational people will follow laws and protocols that are established. Irrational people do not follow the rules. As with Sandy Hook, the irrational actions of one person shot out the doors to get through and then start the rain of terror. Stop and think how many people who work in today's companies must use a card to gain access to their building or have to pass through security check points? Most of the security around business is based on risk assessments that are performed. Why have the school systems not followed this basic premiss? The last 14 years has proven that the risk has risen for our kids in their schools.

With all the current legal guns, you must pull the trigger one time for each shot. The cosmetic appearance has no effect on that outcome. There are many rifles that are semi-automatic, that do not have the appearance of an assault weapon, which could produce the same effects. A hand gun will fire just as fast as a rifle. In some classes of hand guns, can inflict more damage than the rifle that was used.

The focus of prevention of repeating this incident is not dealing with more restrictive gun control but of creating a more holistic approach that includes layered physical security to prevent or delay the action from occurring.

While I am sure you have received many recommendations, the outcome should be based on not just gun control but also engage physical security, deterrent procedures, and response time's improvements. Each establishment should know the average police response time for their faculty. This becomes critical knowledge required for assessing physical security deterrents, performing risk assessments, and determine the most appropriate risk mitigation.

Physical Security:

- Redesign of the entrance ways to our schools to include:
 - Man traps. A mantrap, in modern world, means a small room that is encased or made-of metal, and contains two or more doors. The principal rule is that both

doors cannot be open at the same time. Most schools have a double set of doors on the main entrance. These doors and others should be retrofitted to have bullet proof glass and magnetic locks that are remote controlled. In the Newtown incident, if such system was in place, he would have been trapped between two barriers until police could arrive.

- Buzz in system at the exterior doors with recording video cameras. Office staff can manage and view access to the building. This would also dictate policy change to question the reason for access after the school day started. The reason for access must be verified before access is granted.
- Surveillance cameras watching the perimeter centrally monitored at the police department.
- Panic buttons in the main school office that triggers alarms at the police department and internally to the building to notify classrooms proper lock down within the classroom. Additionally, once the alarm has been triggered, appropriate audio should be transmitted to the police once activated.
- Roof mounted flashing lights once the panic button activated.
- Annual physical security audit of each school:
 - Identify and document known risks to create the initial risk score.
 - Identify physical security controls and determine residual risks.
 - Define new physical security controls based on residual risk level.
 - Develop implementation plan based on risk level and budget constraints.
 - Testing of current implemented security annually. Report results to the Superintendent of schools.
- Shopping Malls / Movie Theaters
 - Security Presence must be visible and on constant patrol. (Armed or not)
 - Video cameras at entrance with remote viewing looking for potential threats
 - Movie theaters with multiple screens have front and back exits.
 - All external fire exits should be alarmed so once the doors open is registered at the central desk with cameras on the external side.
 - All those leaving the movie should only exit into the complex when the movie ends.
 - Annual physical security audits looking for high risk areas

Mental Health:

- Changes of the laws around mental health to allow the doctors to put people on a national watch list if they believe there is a potential of creating harm to the public.
- Adding the requirement of those who are receiving certain mental health medication that is indicative of disorders that could cause potential harm to the NICS database.
- Improved access to mental health care for all.
- Improved mental health support for parents of children.
- Improved school support of those children with emotional disabilities.
- Greater support for those who need mental health services.

Gun Safety:

- The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) must be improved to:
 - Include of all those who have been adjudicated of a potential harm to themselves

- or the public.
- Creation of a national “Black Box” database of potential people who may pose a risk to others. This should be a related system to the NICS system. Purpose of a “Black Box” database is one that has all technical safeguards to prevent data breach and only allow an individual name, social security number, and other relevant information to be submitted in a query with a response of “yes” or “no” when purchasing a weapon. This would protect Electronic Personal Healthcare Information (e-PHI).
- Annual check of current licensed gun owners against the NICS system to ensure that current license holders have not had their status changed. This can be automated to flag when either criminal or mental health status changes.
- Drop restrictions on where licensed concealed weapon permit owners can carry.
- Create Federal minimum standards for application for weapon permits. This would be required for handguns, rifles, shotguns, or ammunition purchase. Each state has different requirements. By imposing minimum requirements, those who have little or none would have to meet them.
- Create Federal concealed weapons permits that can be used across state boundaries.
- Greater controls on private sales of guns. Require private sales of guns follow the same requirements for selling guns.
- Institute that all ammunition must only be purchased by a permit holder.

This list is not exhaustive and many other items could be added. But each of these items should be a baseline security requirement. In Connecticut, we have one of the toughest gun control laws in the nation. Even with the right for police to file with the court to take weapons away from those who threaten others or the public, or those with mental illness it did stop the tragedy in Newtown. Until all these items are addressed, this type of tragedy will occur again. The AR-15 used in Connecticut Sandy Hook shooting is one of the most popular hunting rifles in the United States.

This is being presented in good faith as a concerned parent, security specialist, and a gun owner. I hope you will take the time and review some of the items that I have presented here in your recommendations.

This is a recap of all massacres that occurred in the last 13 years. Notice a large majority of these attacks were not from using “Assault Rifles”. Only one on the list would be considered an “Assault Rifle” that was banned under the 1994 act. It was the AK47 in the list. The majority used handguns and shotguns in their act. This is a good indication that just gun control alone is not the answer. Those who would perform this evil do not care about laws.

Date	Location	State	Weapon
December 14, 2012	Sandy Hook School	Newtown CT	AR-15, a Glock pistol and a Sig Sauer pistol.
December 11, 2012	Clackamas Town Center	Oregon	AR-15 semi-automatic rifle
August 5, 2012.	Six Sikh temple	Oak Creek, Wisconsin	Springfield XD 9mm Pistol
July 20, 2012.	movie theater	Aurora, CO	Pump action 12 gauge, .40 caliber pistol, Smith a Wesson M&P 15.
April 2, 2012	Oikos	Oakland, CA.	.45 caliber pistol

October 14, 2011	University Salon Meritage hair salon	Seal Beach, CA	9mm Springfield pistol, H&K .45 pistol, Smith and Wesson 44 magnum.
September 6, 2011	IHOP restaurant	Carson City, NV	AK-47 (this actually IS an assault-rifle)
January 8, 2011	Safeway market	Tucson, AZ.	Glock 9mm pistol
August 3, 2010	Hartford Distributors	Manchester CT	2 Ruger SR9s
November 5, 2009.	Fort Hood army base	Texas	FN Five-Seven pistol
April 3, 2009	immigration center	Binghamton, New York	9mm Beretta Vertec pistol, .45 Beretta Storm pistol
March 29, 2009	Pinelake Health and Rehab nursing home	Carthage, NC	Remington 597 .22 rifle, .357 revolver, .22 magnum pistol, 12 gauge Winchester 1300 shotgun.
February 14, 2008	Northern Illinois University	Illinois	2 gauge Remington Sportsman shotgun, 9mm Glock 19 pistol, 9mm Sig Sauer P232 pistol, .380 pistol
February 7, 2008.	City Hall	Kirkwood, Missouri.	Smith and Wesson model 29 44 Magnum revolver, Smith and Wesson .40 caliber pistol,
December 5, 2007	Westroads Mall	Omaha, NE	Century WASR-10 semi-automatic rifle
April 16, 2007	Virginia Tech	Virginia	Glock 19 pistol, Walther P22 pistol.
February 12, 2007	Trolley Square Mall	Salt Lake City, UT	Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun, 38 caliber pistol
October 2, 2006	Amish schoolhouse	Lancaster, PA	Springfield XD 9mm pistol, Browning 12 gauge shotgun, Ruger .30-06 bolt-action rifle.
March 25, 2006	shooting spree through Capitol Hill	Seattle, WA.	Winchester 1300 12 gauge shotgun, Ruger P944 40 caliber pistol
March 21, 2005	Red Lake Senior High School,	Redlack, MN	.40 caliber Glock 23 pistol, .22 caliber Ruger pistol, Remington 870 12 gauge shotgun.
March 12, 2005	A Living Church of God	Brookfield, WI.	9mm pistol
July 8, 2003	Lockheed Martin	Meridian, MI	Winchester 12 gauge shotgun, Ruger Mini-14 .223 caliber rifle.
September 15, 1999	Wedgewood Baptist Church	Fort Worth, TX	Ruger 9mm Pistol, .380 ACP pistol
July 29, 1999	two Atlanta day trading firms	Atlanta, GA	Colt .45 pistol, Glock 17 9mm pistol, .22 pistol revolver, .25 caliber pistol
April 20, 1999	Columbine High School	Littleton, CO	12 gauge Savage shotgun, Hi-Point 9mm pistol, TEC-9 9mm pistol, 12 gauge Stevens shotgun, and 99 improvised explosives.

Submitted by: James Ritchie, CISA, CISSP