

Can everyone hear me back there?

I am Jim Krapp,

Life long
Sandy Hook
resident

Thank you everyone for this opportunity to speak here tonight. I wish the circumstances that led up to this hearing were better and my heart goes out to all who have been affected by this senseless tragedy. I attended Sandy Hook Elementary as did my children after me. I live close by between here and the school.

I have worked for many years as a teacher and at least 20 years in high tech industry in both engineering and administrative positions. My family has been in Newtown for at least 4 generations. I have guns that have been past down for more generations than that and some I have collected. I expect to pass that heritage down to my children and grandchildren. It is my right.

Unfortunately when madness strikes no amount of laws can prevent what has happened. I understand approximately 20 laws were broken during this crime. None of them saved anyone there. I will not speak of this madman since our media has sensationalized this whole episode and made him a household word. We now have so many gun laws here in CT my head spins when I try and keep up with them. More gun laws will only make criminals out of many patriotic, law abiding citizens who responsibly own guns now. Why should we be punished? I have trained in Switzerland where everyone has a mandatory year of military service and keeps an assault rifle ready to go in their homes. They have very little crime there.

We now live in a world where these things will happen whether it is perpetrated by a madman or a terrorist. We have to stop hiding behind our lily white, daffodil fantasy and realize there are people and places in the world that are not very nice. A quick trip through some of our run down urban areas should be enough to remind you. We now have to look at things that will realistically work for us to protect our children. Enforce the gun laws that are already on the books-adding more won't solve anything. If I wanted to commit mass murder I could just as easily drive a hijacked tractor-trailer through the side of a school or across a crowded play ground. Do we sue the truck manufacturer then?

I cannot justify arming teachers-one misplaced purse or unlocked desk could lead to an accident. Giving certain administrators access to a fire arm safely locked up with proper training might help. Where I teach at Pomperaug H S we have five retired police officers as unarmed guards and one full time armed police officer assigned to the school. This has worked out quite nicely and the guards have developed a great relationship with the faculty and student body. This was in place before our tragedy. Over one third of the schools in the USA have adopted some sort of security involving personnel. What sort of outcome would we have had if a trained, armed guard wearing a bullet proof vest had met ~~Adam~~^{this murderer} at the door? We don't have to turn our schools into a fortress but some well planned security measures and personnel seem to be the only viable solution here. This is a way of life in places like Israel. Do not think the wave of Islamic extremism will not wash up on our shores again.

We need to begin living our American ideals again-not the convoluted and twisted ideas put forth by our media and some of our religions-but the ideals expressed by the framers of our constitution. We are not a nation of blind sheep.

In closing I would like to say that pursuing my hunting and sport shooting hobbies has become more and more difficult in this area but it is my right. A right that our forefathers fought and died for and many good people I know would do the same.

Thank you.