

My name is John Farrell and I reside in Prospect, Connecticut. I'd first like to thank you for the opportunity to express my views and concerns regarding Gun Violence Prevention.

A member of my family was in Sandy Hook Elementary School during the invasion and school shooting by Adam Lanza. He was one of the little boys "lucky" enough to make it home safely to his parents. That day has impacted my family in ways that we never could have imagined. Despite this fact, I still support the rights protected by the 2nd Amendment.

While addressing gun violence is obviously important, it is equally important to realize that it is the individual that commits these crimes not the tool that they use. Criminals do not care what laws they break; they are criminals. Passing legislation that further restricts the law-abiding citizens' 2nd amendment rights will do nothing to curb gun violence.

May I suggest enforcing the gun laws that already exist instead of enacting new laws. Require any criminal committing a violent crime to serve their entire sentence. Enforce mandatory sentencing for possession and use of illegal firearms. Reinstate the death penalty. Provide a support system for those with mental illness and their families up to and including reopening facilities to house those individuals that pose a risk to others and themselves.

Finally, if the group determines that new laws are needed and appropriate, please leave emotion out of this discussion. Proponents of stricter gun laws have seized upon the emotions of the nation and especially those of Connecticut residents. Address the issue in a just, balanced, and bi-partisan way: addressing the concerns of all points of view.

Respectfully,

John Farrell, Prospect, CT

