

Ladies and Gentleman
My name is John Fritz
I am from Stratford, CT

My message is very simple. You can get the facts without thinking but you can't think without the facts.

Let's look at some facts. In every single one of these tragedies a myriad of gun laws were broken. The important lesson there is that Laws do not **stop** crime they only provided penalties (if you are caught). That's why these cowards kill themselves... They do not want to pay the price. Have you ever exceeded the speed limit? There is a law against that, but it didn't STOP you.

Fact.

In about 45AD Rome outlawed Swords. Senator Lucius Annaeus Seneca Said "A sword is never a killer, it is a tool in the killer's hands". Eventually the law was repealed so citizens could protect themselves from the invaders the army was not able to stop.

Fact.

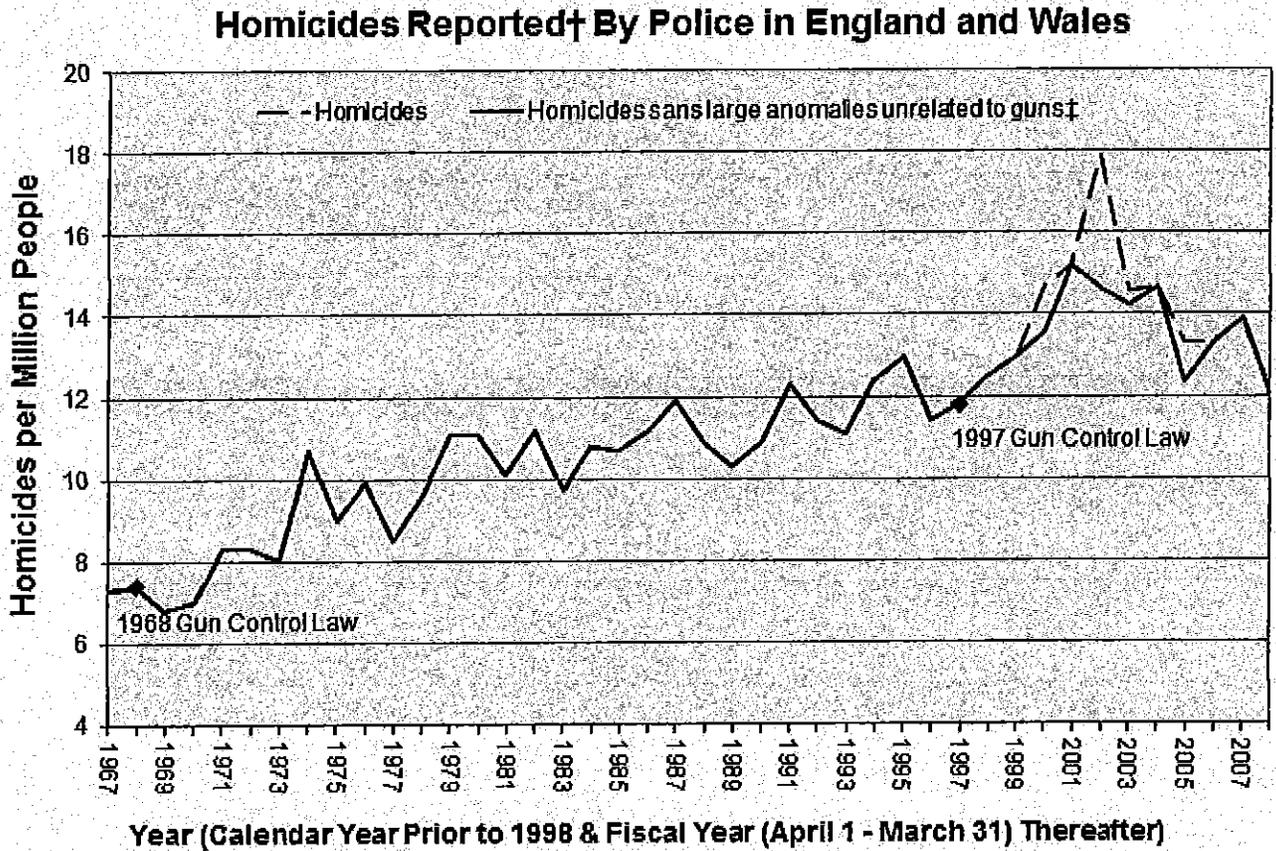
Great Britain outlawed ALL guns in 1997. At that time the police did not routinely carry guns. The crime rate went up. Now even the Bobbies need to have guns.

* In 1920, Britain passed a law requiring civilians to obtain a certificate from their district police chief in order to purchase or possess any firearm except a shotgun. To obtain this certificate, the applicant had to pay a fee, and the chief of police had to be "satisfied" that the applicant had "good reason for requiring such a certificate" and did

not pose a "danger to the public safety or to the peace." The certificate had to specify the types and quantities of firearms and ammunition that the applicant could purchase and keep

* In 1968, Britain made the 1920 law stricter by requiring civilians to obtain a certificate from their district police chief in order to purchase or possess a shotgun. This law also required that firearm certificates specify the identification numbers ("if known") of all firearms and shotguns owned by the applicant.

* In 1997, Britain passed a law requiring civilians to surrender almost all privately owned handguns to the police. More than 162,000 handguns and 1.5 million pounds of ammunition were "compulsorily surrendered" by February 1998. Using "records of firearms held on firearms certificates," police accounted for all but fewer than eight of all legally owned handguns in England, Scotland, and Wales



† Homicide data is published according to the years in which the police initially reported the offenses as homicides, which are not always the same years in which the incidents took place.

‡ Large anomalies unrelated to guns:

2000: 58 Chinese people suffocated to death in a shipping container en route to the UK

2002: 172 homicides reported when Dr. Harold Shipman was exposed for killing his patients

2003: 20 cockle pickers drowned resulting in manslaughter charges

2005: 52 people were killed in the July 7th London subway/bus bombings

* Not counting the above-listed anomalies, the homicide rate in England and Wales has averaged **52% higher** since the outset of the 1968 gun control law and **15% higher** since the outset of the 1997 handgun **ban**.

(1) See foot note for source

Fact

Australia tried the same thing. Millions of guns were collected and destroyed. Guess what?

Armed Robberies up 69%

Assaults up 28%

Murder with guns up 19%

Home Invasions up 21%

Oh by the way, now they have outlawed Swords.

The point is guns are not the problem. Criminals are the problem. There are over 20,000 gun laws and not one of them was broken by a gun. The law was broken by a criminal!

A friend once had a very special, highly venomous pet snake. Eventually it bit him. He asked the snake "Why did

you bite me?" The snake said (I told you it was special) "It's what snakes do". CRIMINALS BREAK LAWS "it's what they do". You can pass laws from now till eternity and the criminals couldn't care less. Disarm the population and the criminals will thank you for giving them a safe work environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen All these terrible tragedies, and crime in general, are Symptoms. They are the result of a whole kaleidoscope of factors that have changed the very fabric of American Society.

It is as plain as the nose on your face. If you focus on the symptom you will never cure the disease. Criminals are the cancer in our society.

We have to focus on getting rid of criminals

I recently received a list of 55 new proposed gun bills. Of those there are two or three that might actually do some good.

A. HB-5561 Funding of state wide firearms trafficking task force would be a good start because it focuses on criminals.

B. HB-5646 Gang activity and crime focuses on the problem not the symptom

C. SB-277 School district rules for carrying guns on school grounds.

D. I think the NRA did a poor job of presenting their position but I do think they are correct when they say "Good guys with guns stop bad guys with guns" In a

perfect world there would be no bad guys but this is not a perfect world. Other places do it. See if it works.

The rest of the proposals are for the most part what Vice President Biden calls Malarkey. Feel good legislation that accomplishes nothing, and infringes on the rights of good, honest citizens. I wish I know who said this but I t is a good analogy,

"Gun control is like trying to stop drunk driving by preventing sober folks from owning a car."

In closing I wish to stress that you take your time . Do not allow yourselves to be pushed into making knee jerk decisions. Get the facts. Attack the causes not the symptoms. This situation has been developing over the last 70 years. It started after the Second World War when "Mom" went to work and third parties started raising the kids. You are not going to cure the ills of society over night. I don't have the all answers but I know for sure "Gun Control" it not one of them.

Thank you

- (1) Gun Control Facts." By James D. Agresti and Reid K. Smith. Just Facts, September 13, 2010. Revised 12/28/12. <http://justfacts.com/guncontrol.asp>