

## TESTIMONY

John Neuhoff, Sandy Hook, CT

I live in Sandy Hook with my wife and 13 year old daughter and have been retired for 10 years. Since my wife works full time I have had the great fortune of spending years of quality time with my daughter. I am not political. In fact, the last time I voted was in the Bush/Gore election. Before the tragedy I had never heard of Senator Feinstein in CA, Senator Blumenthal or Senator Elect Murphy. I am not a gun control activist. I own two licensed shotguns. Five doors away a family in my neighborhood lost a child at Sandy Hook Elementary. We drive by their house many times a day to get to town and loved seeing their two beautiful boys playing in the front yard. Three minutes away up the hill lived the evil person that changed our lives forever. That is when I changed.

Before our tragedy I was okay with assault weapons in our town or elsewhere. I enjoyed movies with them and found it interesting that their images are woven into rugs and that an AK-47 is on Mozambique's flag. I was comforted when the police carried them on that terrible Friday but now I have decided that I never want them used in my town by any private resident.

Please bear with my reason explained with an analogy. Assault weapons are hidden from view in Sandy Hook. Let's imagine that we can see them. Each weapon is a Siberian tiger on each of the owner's front lawn. Maybe there would be a hundred Siberian tigers on the front lawns in Sandy Hook. I would drive around and say "how beautiful." If a tiger left a lawn and hurt a neighbor I would go to the Newtown Police Department and ask them to get those tigers under control for safety sake. Fences would be built. I'd drive by and say "beautiful but dangerous." If a tiger jumped a fence and hurt another neighbor I'd go back to the Newton Police. Taller fences with codes and safeguards would go up. I would now think they are less beautiful and more dangerous. If a "crazy" person opened a fence and let a tiger out that killed 27 neighbors, I would ask the police to get rid of the tigers and send them all to the zoo. We have a neighbor that carried out the atrocities on December 14 with an assault rifle. He was both the crazy person that opened the fence and the tiger that killed 27. He should never have had the opportunity to do that. Right now I feel every assault weapon in Sandy Hook is a tiger without a fence and I want it gone. My family is still in the same danger it was in before the Friday shooting and I do not like it! I no longer want my neighbors to have these killing machines with high-capacity magazines and other modifications!

I want assault weapons banned in CT. The world did not end when we had a Federal ban. I want all "grandfathered" assault weapons, high capacity magazine and "heavy" ammunition to require locking mechanisms that only the owners can unlock. While unlocked the owners must be present at all times. I am putting my trust in you to help protect us. Please protect us. If not, it will not be long before the unthinkable happens again in some other unsuspecting town.

Thank you for reading this testimony and God Bless our town.

John Neuhoff  
Sandy Hook, CT

