

The tragedy at Sandy Hook has hit the residents of Connecticut very hard. Many of us are parents that have children in the Connecticut schools and colleges. We're all looking for solutions to prevent similar tragedies from recurring. I don't feel that creating additional laws that further restrict gun rights is the answer that's going to make our children safer in the schools, movie theaters or malls. Gun control has been enacted in the past without effective results. I don't want another set of restrictive laws passed that's going to make everyone feel good but at the end of the day doesn't do anything to make our children safer. Making the schools safer to any type of criminal intrusion is certainly something that can be pursued. Someone who is committed to creating mayhem in a school by any means can be most effectively stopped by physical containment measures or an armed presence (police or other trained officer). Wishing that people will obey laws won't keep people from committing crimes. Restricting the rights of millions of gun owners because of the actions of a few is not the premise upon which this country was founded. It's time to question why the youth of today feel that the solution to their problems is to kill people. What's changed over the years to make this such a common occurrence. There were less gun laws in the past and people had easier access to them but killing people wasn't the solution to problems. It's time to look at other sources of influence such as a failed mental health system, violent video games, violence on television and the movies and other factors to determine why our youth have become desensitized to violence. For the studies that say there's no correlation between the violence in video games or in the media and the people that commit crimes, then I would question why cigarette commercials have been banned on television. If seeing people smoking on television doesn't influence our youth, then why were the commercials removed. Not everyone may be influenced by violence in our media, but it may adversely affect the ones that eventually commit these horrendous acts of violence. Please take the time to find the root causes of today's violent behaviors so maybe we can truly prevent future occurrences.