

Thank you for your time. My name is Ken Brooks. I am a Baptist pastor from Danbury. Although I believe reacting to Sandy Hook by passing gun legislation would be misguided and unwise, I am not here to repeat the testimony of others. As a pastor, I am here to speak for God.

You have my sympathies. You face the nearly impossible task of balancing the need for safety in our society with the right of the individual to keep and bear arms in defense of his liberties. You will hear impassioned testimony today from all sides of this issue. I believe every person of good will in this room shares the same aim. Our differences are as to our means.

I believe you are listening for solutions. I can offer them to you. You may not wish to implement them, but they will work. You face a problem that requires the wisdom of Solomon. I pray the same God Who gave Solomon his wisdom will give you yours.

Guns are not the problem. Ever since Cain killed Abel, man has found a way to kill his fellow man. No legislature in the world has been able to stop that. This legislature will not. What this legislature can do, however, is make things worse by making criminals of law-abiding gun owners. Please do not aim at safety and miss the real target.

The problem is not guns but the human heart. Guns have been a part of the United States since its inception, yet mass murders like last year's have not. What has changed? Society has changed. We have developed a culture of death.

In one sense, we might ask, what is all the fuss about? These same twenty children, just seven or eight years earlier, could have been killed by their mothers with impunity. Forty years ago, our Supreme Court granted mothers permission to kill their children and not call it murder. The horror of abortion is kept hidden, but were it brought into the open, the sight would traumatize as much as anything first responders saw in Sandy Hook. Abortion takes away the sanctity of human life. It coarsens a culture. Abortion contributes to our culture of death.

Banishing God from public life contributes to the culture of death. On December 14, where was God when the killing began? He was not in school that day. Fifty years ago, we asked Him to leave. The God Who came that we might have life has not been welcome in our public schools since I was in fifth grade. Is it any wonder we now have death? Before the 1960's, we said the Lord's Prayer as part of our morning exercises. We said grace before mid-morning snack. The Ten Commandments were posted on our classroom walls. One of those commandments is, "Thou shalt not kill." Adam Lanza did not see that commandment, did he? Banishing God has contributed to our culture of death.

Teaching evolution contributes to our culture of death. When we tell our children they came from animals, why are we upset when they act like it? Human life is sacred only if created by God. Godless evolution contributes to our culture of death.

Psalm 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, *And* all the nations that forget God." Instead of reacting by passing gun legislation, react by remembering God. Stop abortion. Bring God back into the schools. Put the Ten Commandments in every classroom. If you will not do this, prepare to reap what you have sown, for only God can address the real problem: the wickedness of the human heart.

Thank you very much.