

**GUN VIOLENCE SOLUTION**Kevin Augeri

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First let me say my thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of these horrific tragedies. As a parent of 3 young children and a law abiding gun owner I can tell you first hand that none of these anti-gun proposals will do anything to protect our children from future tragedies.

Believing that more gun control is the answer instills false hope to all of us concerned parents here tonight. That is UNFAIR to us and especially our CHILDREN. All this does is make 100 million law abiding gun owners the scapegoat for a handful of mentally deranged criminals that political correctness has allowed to roam free and that the Media continues to exploit and enshrine. The Media and some political figures use buzzwords like "high capacity", "semi-automatic", "military style assault weapons" to scare and mislead the general public to generate support for their agenda and misinformation campaign.

Let's start to solve the problem by dealing with the MENTAL HEALTH epidemic. It's time for ALL of us to step up and realize that the person behind the trigger is ultimately responsible. We need to reach out to these individuals and get them help before they pull the trigger. This needs to be our MAIN concern.

I also propose that a study be conducted on violence in the entertainment industry, which includes Hollywood, the music industry, and video games. It's obvious that these kinds of things sensationalize violence and promote a false sense of reality.

Next tackle the MEDIA. The media needs to be held accountable for copycat incidents and biased, sensationalized reporting because they are reckless and have NO consequences. Many politicians and the media want us to think we will be GUNNED Down in GUN Violence by a GUNman. These coined phrases NEED TO BE RETIRED. Guns are not violent; we need to identify the people that are. Why don't we hear about car violence, hammer violence or knife violence? Because it's ridiculous to think an inanimate object is responsible for death and mayhem.

It's time to STOP BLAMING AN OBJECT and END the hate campaign against guns and lawful gun owners. The clever use of the word GUN is used to cloud the water for their own agenda and bypass real change in America – change that would really keep our kids safe. Isn't that what we're all trying to do here? It's time for all of us to quit playing charades and address the REAL problem.

We elect our legislators with the hope they will be OBJECTIVE – meaning they are NOT influenced by personal feelings or opinions in considering and representing the facts, just as our founding fathers certainly did. From the proposals I have seen (1 bullet, 50% tax on ammo, liability insurance, gun bans, magazine bans, lists of gun owners, cosmetic part scare tactics, etc) it, and at the expense of our children's lives, appears to me they are SUBJECTIVE, basing their legislation on personal feelings and opinions and certainly NOT serious about protecting our children.

I will NOT accept one more Gun Control law. We have too many now that don't get enforced. Nor will criminal's and psychopath's adhere to them. If you're passing these laws just to have something on your campaign flyer to prove you reacted to the Newtown tragedy then SHAME ON YOU! And I hope you enjoy your last term in office.

As a parent and a law abiding gun owner I'm appalled at our legislators for their lack of creativity in proposing new laws that will protect our children. I have heard NOT ONE. Enough is enough – the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED. This time around I demand our legislators to think OUTSIDE THE "GUN" BOX.

Kevin Augeri