

We are writing to share our opinion on the State of Connecticut's study on gun violence, school safety, and mental health.

First, we believe the laws regarding gun control in the State of Connecticut are strict enough. Changes in present laws will not keep those intent on doing harm from carrying out their plans. We do need to strictly enforce those laws and be sure the punishment for breaking those laws is dealt with swiftly and severely. Law abiding citizens who choose to own and/or carry firearms should not have that right infringed upon in any way shape or form. Period.

Schools need to be safe. Presently, they are "gun free zones". In other words, they are safe places to do harm to others without fear of repercussion. Buzzers, cameras, bulletproof glass, all help secure schools, but the mere knowledge that someone is in the school armed to protect those in there will certainly deter someone from thinking about committing something tragic. We truly believe if someone in the Sandyhook school had a firearm, Adam Lanza would not have been able to do the amount of harm he was able to commit. Schools need to be protected. We need to recognize that gun free zones really do open the door to those ready and willing to do harm. Leaving school safety to a secretary glancing at a security camera or buzzing in visitors is not a safety plan. That sort of plan leaves students and teachers sitting ducks. There is protection for government and elected officials, like yourselves, but none...NONE....for our children. We cannot understand the mentality that an armed school is a bad thing. It makes no logical sense.

Clearly, someone who commits such a horrific crime is mentally ill. We do not deal with this issue in a upfront manner because if we did it would be viewed as politically incorrect. We will always have people with mental health issues. We need to recognize and treat those who may do harm to themselves and others. We cannot be afraid to speak up and worry about the politics of pointing out a someone is "just not right". Mental health professionals need to diagnose, but teachers, family members, friends, clergy, whomever, need to come forward with concerns. We hold doctors, teachers, etc. accountable to report abuse, why not mental health concerns? We aren't asking for a diagnosis, just a heads up.

In closing, we encourage you to not support further gun controls. We ask you instead, enforce current gun laws, secure all schools with armed security, and require the reporting of suspect mental health concerns.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our view on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michael & Jennifer Truss
Colebrook, CT