

Honorable Legislators,

As with all who have testified to you regarding the tragic events of 12/14/2012, I too was saddened and shocked.

You, as our State leaders, now have the duty to seek legislative responses to that tragic day. However, you also have a duty to not overreact to the events of Sandy Hook.

As I write this today, I am amazed at how little information seems to be guiding the Legislature. I am upset that while holding what should be fair hearings on behalf of ALL residents elected officials move

Their work to Newtown, don Sandy Hook ribbons and then find it informative that the overwhelming majority in Newtown call for tightening gun laws.

Adam Lanza committed crimes, yet now law abiding citizens seemingly are the prime suspect for legislative retribution.

Oppressive taxation has been submitted as a bill. New insurance requirements have been suggested as a bill.

The Legislature has a host of anti-gun ownership bills and the official reports are as of yet unwritten.

This resident can only view your actions as uninformed, ill-considered, reactionary and agenda driven.

I thought your task was to improve safety?

School Safety.

Schools are not built with safety in mind. As a former elected Board of Education member in Monroe I commented

A decade ago that with a certain school office being 70 feet up the hallway the school had safety issue.

Nobody seemed concerned and nothing was ever done.

Today my district is reviewing common sense security measures.

I would submit that your first action should be to assist municipal improvements in each district.

Mental Health.

Senator McKinney was quoted as being shocked at the lack of insurance coverage for mental health services.

Again, we have reaction with a lack of complete information. This is not acceptable.

Please also remember when you mandate the coverage my premiums will simply go up another 18% as they did this year. I am a sole proprietor and purchase a high deductible HAS through Anthem.

You should also review the mainstreaming practice through the public school system.

At 20, Lanza could still have been a special needs student in his local public school.

The law is age of identification until 21.

What information has the Legislature reviewed in this area?

I can tell you as a parent with some firsthand experience when we hold the mandated PPT for special services we only talk about setting goals as required by the law and NEVER do they need to be met.

Let me be clear.....parents struggle with a school which is loath to expend huge sums of money, the professional staff creates an individualized education plan (IEP) and that plan does not need to produce results.

What was the school roll in Lanza's life and how does current state law help or hinder in the young man's progress through life?

Guns.

Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut is even clearer than the Second Amendment in my opinion.

"Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

If citizens are called upon to defend the State of Connecticut for some reason, a musket would not do the job. I hope I am never called. However, the Constitution of our state IS our document from which we derive our laws.

Guns should be locked, background checks should be performed, gun owners who wish to conceal and carry should be permitted (which includes fingerprinting). Connecticut has many, stringent laws covering guns and gun owners. I support sensible legislation which seeks to keep guns safe.

One requirement I heard in the form of Legislation was if a person in your house had mental health issue your guns should be locked up, but I'm an advocate for guns always being locked up!

Adam Lanza's mother did many things wrong and perhaps even did illegal things. For this she paid with her life and we cannot further prosecute her. If she wasn't a victim I'd dare say she'd be facing multiple criminal charges today. We have laws. Many laws. Some of the strictest in America.

I'd like to see the Legislature be more deliberative and informed on the emotional issues and expeditious on the logical issues.

Improve mental health services and school building security.

Receive a full reporting of how Lanza got to the point of such horrific action and deliberate on what you think makes sense on possible new gun laws.

The point for me on your actions with gun laws is that the State and Federal Constitutions are taken

Quite seriously by most gun owners and WE have not committed any criminal act.

If we had our guns would probably be forfeit under the law.

Your actions contemplate citizens forfeiture of Constitutional freedoms under someone else violating the law.

Thank You for your service and consideration.

Respectfully,

Patrick O'Hara  
Monroe CT