

Dear Sirs,

I do not envy the position you all find yourself in these days but as our elected officials, I am sure that you knew it would not be an easy task. I wish so much that I could say that there is no human being that could not be moved by such a tragedy that happened in Newtown. Unfortunately, a human being caused this tragedy and other human beings have caused similar tragedy's. Is it the human's fault or is it the availability of the tool that somehow transforms them into a Monster? I would like to make a simple analogy and you may scoff at this, but if you are open minded you will understand that the similarities are striking. We all know, and statistics bear this out, that excessive speed is the number one cause of highway fatalities. We have speeding limits but they are disobeyed. Are they disobeyed by the vehicle or are they disobeyed by the human driving it? We have laws prohibiting the abuse of a firearm, especially to murder. Is it the firearm breaking those laws or the human being behind it. We all agree that excessive speed kills, innocents as well as the driver. Why do we not petition the automobile manufacturers to place governors on their transmissions to not allow vehicles to go above 55 mph? It can easily be done. No one needs to drive more than 55 mph, no one needs a semiautomatic rifle with a high capacity magazine. In actuality you could try to make a case that in certain instances when an ambulance is not available and you need to get your pregnant wife to the Hospital you need to speed, jeopardizing others along the way or in the case of a home invasion, and we all remember Cheshire, that maybe 10 bullets will not be enough. When the argument is posed that no one needs a semiauto rifle like this, well again, no one "needs" a vehicle to go more than 55 mph when there is ample evidence that speed kills and although it has been scores of years since my Drivers ED class, I doubt even today that they teach young people how to speed in class. There are laws governing abusive speed and there are laws governing the abuse of a firearm and in both case when these tools are abused by a "human being", people can die. No one is calling for vehicles to be inhibited, only the firearm.

When will we take accountability for our actions? The firearm is a mere tool, nothing more, nothing less. Murder lays in the hearts and minds of a person. The Newtown tragedy, however heinous is rare when compared to the whole of gun violence and the use of the Semiauto rifle is extremely rare when compared to the numbers that exist and the number of crimes committed with them. Statistics, if you care to use them as a measuring device to help make a decision clearly show that this type of firearm, legally purchased is not an issue. Illegal firearms such as these are in the hands of teenagers, children, and in itself illegal to possess and then they act out the crime. AS you are aware, the private ownership of handguns is all but prohibited in Chicago, now the murder capital of the country and before that it was Washington, D.C where it was against the law to own a handgun until the Heller case before the Supreme court. We are speaking about illegal firearms in the hands of people where it is against the law to own and have them. Will creating more restrictive laws impede gun violence? Sadly, of course it won't. The criminals don't obey what we now have, they are criminals. Will it stop mass murders, no, it will not. The Root cause and Common denominator, with the exception of Timothy McVie who used a bomb to kill 168 people, is the Mental Health of the individual. Jared Lockner, Virginia Tech, Aurora Co all were Mentally challenged. Columbine and Lanza were Socially aberrant. If we want to really do something about this instead of window dressing, let's get to the actual Root cause. The Root cause is not the tool.

Regards,

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