

Please include this letter as testimony in the public hearings concerning gun violence prevention and school security.

January 18, 2013

A Letter to our Legislators in Connecticut:

(Note: This letter was composed prior to the release of the NRA's plan on the Newtown Shooting.)

"In wake of the massacre of Newton, I feel compelled to urge you to take immediate action to protect our young in Connecticut schools. I am a Connecticut resident, a parent of elementary and middle school children, and as you, I am very upset and concerned about what has recently happened.

When my first child was born, I looked into his eyes and thought from now on my child comes first. To put all your personal problems/ issues behind you, and make your decision based on what is best for your child, is what we as a community should be doing.

The fact is, in regards to physical safety, our schools are our most dangerous places. We are placing our children in a completely unprotected environment. The concept of the best defense is no defense, is absurd. In our schools, we have made it legally impossible for anyone to competently repel a violent attack. As shown in Newton, our administrators and teachers, are nearly defenseless in regards to protecting the children from such a violent attack. They were ill equipped and unprepared. This IS NOT an issue about guns or gun control, THIS IS AN ISSUE ABOUT PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE. This needs to change, and it needs to change now! The fact that our legislators both federal and local are making this a reason for preaching useless political/social ideology is insulting. They are using this tragedy as a platform to preach their disturbed ideology. Groups like Connecticut against Gun Violence preach how guns are the reason for all violence, yet it is this very wrong and disturbed philosophy that has given the public the concept that the best defense against violence, is NO DEFENSE.

Let's stay focused on the problem, and what needs to be done, to attempted to prevent this from happening again. First, realize that the potential for extreme violence exists. Second, realize and accept the fact that our schools are defenseless to such a violent attacks. Lock downs and security buzzers are no match for such a violent act. Third, devise a real plan which will give schools the best chance of maximizing the survival rate after such an attack. Other issues to consider: Communities need to be able to afford the solution. We don't want to make our schools into prisons or fortresses. Every day school life needs to remain as unaltered as reasonably possible.

The solution ? There needs to be 1 administrator/teacher who can conceal carry a firearm for approximately every 100-150 students. At least 2 need to be in the main office with the rest strategically placed through the school. They need to be provided with 2 way radios. They also

need to meet with local/state law enforcement to train, coordinate and plan an appropriate response in case of a violent attack. An SRO would be great, but one officer in charge of 2-3 schools would just not be enough. There would need to be an officer in every school. If we can learn one thing from Sandy Hook, it is that even minutes can be too long.

Our politicians can debate till the end of time. They can say the care about our children, and then immediately turn their backs, and take advantage of tragedy. What is left for us?? Pain!, and a hole in our hearts knowing that for those of us who are fortunate enough to still have our children with us, have no real choice but to continue to send them to the most unsecure environment in Connecticut. "

P.S.:

Now you talk of MORE MORE MORE GUN LAWS. Military style guns, guns with large magazine capacities, guns of war!!!!

YOU GOT IT WRONG!

After the Petit Family murders, I realized that "I" was the only one who could truly protect my family. The job of the police is to investigate crime and apprehend the perpetrators (Note: after the fact). Combined with the fact that the Connecticut Judicial System completely failed in dispensing and carrying out a just punishment, only left me with one alternative. To be proactive and make a real effort in learning what I needed to know to protect my family.

I've spent more time than I could say reading, learning, and training with firearms. I've trained with shotguns, handguns and rifles. I've trained with guns of all types, single shot, double barrel, bolt action, lever action, semi automatic, safe action, single and double action,.

One thing I can tell you, if someone tells you "a pump shotgun is the best home defense weapon", without asking you in detail your home situation, walk away, he doesn't know what he is talking about. My point is the guns and features you consider guns of war, I consider and know to be guns and features of protection. For example a short barrel ar-15 style gun with rails, light, laser, high capacity magazine and optical sight, would be ideal if you needed to protect a family which consisted of multiple young children/teenagers whose bedrooms were spread throughout the house on multiple floors. If you were smart, your job as parent would be to call 911 and then use your "WEAPON OF HOME PROTECTION" to gather your children in a secure safe room and wait for the police.

If you had the same home as described above, but had multiple small children/infants who required you to physically hold/guide them to a safe room, then, a HIGH CAPACITY PISTOL WITH A LIGHT AND LASER would be best. You would be able to competently use it with a single hand, and have the other hand to hold/guide your family members. The HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINE WOULD BE INDESPENSIBLE if you were to encounter multiple home invaders.

Please also realize this, many of your new purposed gun law changes would directly affect how I protect my family . Our laws already place my children at risk while they are at school. Most of these new purposed changes would do nothing but reduce my ability to protect them everywhere else. A childhood friend of my wife lost her cousin in the attack at Newtown Elementary School. At her wake, I couldn't help but feel angry at a system that left her and the children so unprotected.

I've seen this coming for a long time. I've spoken to my children many times, prior to this tragedy, about what they need to do in case of violent attack while they were at school. I provided them with cell phones long before I normally would have. I've tried to prepare them the best I could considering the environment I had to send them to, our schools.

Also, have any of you (our Connecticut Legislators) recently walk through a typical Connecticut Elementary School. Look at the classroom doors, most have LARGE windows with NO LOCKS. How can you have a lockdown if the teacher cant lock the door of her classroom. Just lock the outside doors?? Well what if the attacker is already inside?? If you want to help, find funding and pass laws to help properly secure our schools.

Recently, a bill was presented to acquire metal detectors for the LOB. How about a bill for metal detectors for our schools.?? Why are you considering bills to protect yourselves, but not our children???

One other thing. Our school busses, as well as our schools, are very vulnerable to a violent attack. The door system need to be reconfigured so it would be capable to repelling a violent individual from forcibly entering the bus.

I respectfully ask all my legislators of Connecticut to discuss and make laws which will make our children safer in our communities, and continue to allow parents like myself, to be able to acquire the equipment we need to best protect them while they are at home. To act not as politicians, but as mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, grandparents, ect. Whether or not you like or dislike a solution to a problem should be irrelevant. What should be relevant is weather the solution has a real chance at correcting the problem. I ask you to stay focused, keep an open mind, and make our children safer.

Thank you,

Robert Cavoli, D.M.D.

Harwinton, Ct