

Members of the Task Force,

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions regarding gun violence and school security. I am a four tour Veteran and currently still serve our nation's military. I am of the firm belief that every individual is afforded the right to self-defense. Our states constitution also agrees with that fact. No amount of training whether in the military, law enforcement or as a trained civilian can guarantee the outcome of any incident or situation. The training can only make the outcome of a situation result better in your favor. Evil at home or abroad is all around us and can strike at any moment.

Recent events which have led us to these hearings are sickening and unfortunate. We have security around our airports, our federal and government buildings, security cameras, metal detectors, trained 1st responders, yet none of these measures seem to be afforded our schools which are labeled as soft targets. Directing blame and gun control measure to law abiding citizens, does nothing to quell the violence of a few. Criminals never follow the law.

While I have heard people clamoring to ban assault rifles, tax ammunition, limit standard magazine capacity, I have not heard anything that solves the issue in protecting our children. I would warrant taking a hard look at implementing solutions such as; teachers trained with pepper spray and Tasers, Kevlar blankets, reinforced doors with key codes, security perimeter cameras linked in to ADT, and roaming security personnel. Making a school a hard target is the best deterrent. In Pawcatuck there is a police station right across the street which I guarantee makes that school a hard target.

I believe in a person's inherent right to self-defense and neither the government, nor military, nor law enforcement can dictate otherwise. If we limit anyone no one should be exempt because if we all believe in the same right and not variances of that right then we all should stand on common ground. I am opposed to any legislation that limits my ability to protect myself or family and any law that allows one group of individuals to be afforded a right of life above others.

With due regard,

Scott Fessenden