

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen who is becoming more and more alarmed at the emotional mad rush to try and disarm the citizens of this great state. In the wake of the horrible tragedy of Sandy Hook it was distressing to see the usual cast of political characters and civilian disarmament groups, within hours, make the same tired calls for civilian disarmament. Once again people focus on the “tool” rather than the crazed individual who wields it.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that some are bent on committing heinous acts. History is replete with examples of individuals who, in spite of laws that governments pass, commit horrible, heinous acts of violence.

The Sandy Hook murderer violated numerous firearm laws and numerous penal laws that horrible day. The tragedy at Sandy Hook once again reminds us that laws do not stop someone bent on committing a crime.

In the wake of Sandy Hook the usual civilian disarmament groups have spread inaccurate information and sometimes outright lies with respect to firearms and how firearms are obtained. I urge the committee to listen to those who are knowledgeable about firearms and the laws that govern them, rather than the civilian disarmament groups that attempt to use emotion and ignorance to sway you to disarm the populous.

I urge you to investigate the option of allowing teachers, and staff of schools to arm themselves and obtain additional firearms training so they may be the first responders when the time arises. Why not call for armed security in schools? There will be the shrill cries to keep guns out of schools. As Sandy Hook and other past school and public shootings have illustrated, laws that create “gun free zones” **will not stop** the crazed lone individual from murder. There are those who demand no guns in school, yet cry out in anger demanding to know why police, who carry guns, take 10 or minutes to arrive at the school to save everyone. In the case of Sandy Hook, reports are it took first responders upwards of 20 minutes to arrive at the school.

The Brady Campaign already lists Connecticut 5th in the nation with the best civilian disarmament laws, yet as we see, that is still not good enough for them. Civilian disarmament groups like the Brady Campaign and Cagv.org seek to disarm those who follow the law, and leave us at the mercy of those who do not follow the law.

I will not boor you with numbers, statistics and useless polling data. I will simply say that the FBI states semiautomatic rifles are used in less than 3% of homicides in our nation. That hands and feet kill more people than semiautomatic rifles.*

Unfortunately the tragedy at Sandy Hook reminds us that we need to look at the root cause for these mass murders. Having an emotional knee jerk reaction that punishes those who follow the law by disarming them **does not** solve the underlying problem of a lone crazed individual bent on murder. Take away guns and crazed lone individuals will use gasoline. Which is what Julio González used when he murdered 87 people on March 25, 1990 at the Happy Land social club in New York City. Or the crazed individual(s) will use diesel fuel and fertilizer. Which is what Timothy McVeigh used to blow up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, murdering 168 people including 19 children.

In closing I hope you will not dismiss the concerns of those who choose exercise their natural rights as detailed in Article I, Sec. 15 of the Connecticut Constitution and 2nd Amendment to the Bill of Rights. Disarming the law abiding puts us at the mercy of the criminal who will not follow any of the currently proposed disarmament laws. Rather I urge you to focus on how parents, and our society can interdict the mentally ill before they harm themselves and others. I urge you to focus on how we can help them obtain effective treatment and mental health assistance.

Thank you for your time.
A resident of New Haven, CT.

* <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-8>