

Dear Legislators and Committee Members,

Thank you for reading my testimony outline. My name is Steven Dube of Tolland and I have been in Law Enforcement for 20 years as a civilian computer programmer analyst and database professional.

First, allow me to express my heartfelt prayers to the families and first responders of the Sandy Hook murders. I cannot imagine what they are going through.

A lot of thoughtful proposals have gone forth in the name of Sandy Hook, some with credence and others are punitive to law abiding gun owners and sportsmen. Most of them wouldn't have prevented Sandy Hook nor will they prevent another. A simple fact overrides and should be considered whenever drafting legislation to curb gun violence. Criminals and the insane do not care about laws. The Sandy Hook monster broke numerous laws in commission of his crimes. The Columbine killers did also.

There are 5 basic commonalities to these atrocities that should be taken under consideration.

1. All of the shootings, except the one the almost killed Giffords, took place in a "Gun Free Zone". The murderers pick these places deliberately because they think they won't be confronted. They are cowards and if confronted would be forced to kill themselves or be killed before they committed their mayhem. In all cases the Police did not cause the death of these monsters. They either killed themselves either after the event or during, or in a few cases they were confronted and were stopped either by civilians, off duty police, or security. It was all over before the police came. In Sandy Hook the shooter killed himself when he saw the police arrive.
2. In almost all of the cases the shooters were or had been taking psychotropic drugs which have been documented to cause violent or suicidal tendencies in some young adults and teens - forcing a "black box" warning label to be put on them.
3. All of the shooters gave some indication of violent behavior whether it was violent stories, or blogs on the web telling what they were planning, addiction to ultra violent video games - ie playing them for hours on end without breaks.

4. In all cases shooters used semi auto weapons. The caveat with Columbine being that the pistols and shot gun was Plan B - Plan A was to blow up the cafeteria with 2- 20lb propane tanks which would have killed 460+ people - the timers didn't work so they resorted to Plan B. Semi auto sporting rifles and pistols are the "stars" of violent video games and movies. In at least a few cases the shooters dressed like combatants / or movie villains with the gun being part of the costume. In other words they emulated their "heros".

5. The News is instantaneous these days. It was said earlier that the media makes these monsters into stars. Pictures of all of the shooters get plastered all over the web and onscreen - in newspapers. This creates a subculture of villains and seeds the addled brain of the next murderer in the wings. Even the President of the United States sheds a tear on television and all the talking heads and professors try to figure out publicly what drives these monsters. There is the feeling of control these murderers have and seek, knowing that when they wreak mayhem then kill themselves, they will be on TV and talked about all over the world instantly - their peers will revere them. Finally those years of being the bullied geek will be over and they will have wreaked their revenge.

Lots of people are on SSRIs without issue, lots of people shoot guns for sport and hobby without issue, lots of people see violent movies and play video games without issue and lots of people get their names on the news all over, without issue. Lots of people use firearms to defend themselves and their families each year. Lastly, gun free zones only work for law abiding citizens. But when all 5 of these things come together you have a recipe for mayhem.

So banning guns, magazines, and much of the other legislation proposed isn't going to stop the carnage. *It is only going to punish the law abiding gun owner and sportsman who has done nothing wrong.* If you talk with experienced street police officers, psychologists, and swat trainers they will tell you - unless you deal with all 5 of the above, #4 by itself isn't going to do anything. We have had in the past much easier access to weapons and yet didn't really see mass killings like this until the mid 60s. These aberrations have come about more so since the advent of SSRI type antidepressants and ultra violent desensitizing movies and video games. In fact most other forms of violent Crime in the US have been on the

decline since then, including those involving guns, and most of those are attributed to gang and drug activity.

What we can do is to consider the items above and work to control them:

1. Eliminating gun free zones - and enhancing the already popular School Resource Officer Program which is good on many levels - it creates a bonding between the officers and children at an early age and can head off bullying and other problems - plus being the first responder and more importantly, If teachers want to be armed let them and train them as we do Airline Pilots. The criminal cowards would probably not want to attack a school with armed confronters in it. They prey on defenseless situations like gun free zones.
2. Psychotropic drugs must be monitored carefully when prescribed. Any indicators of violence or suicidal tendencies must immediately be dealt with by the families and physicians.
3. Mental Illness needs to be treated more assertively by professionals and family. Clinics and other treatment centers need to be beefed up or created to handle the load.
4. NICS checks should be on all weapons sold in CT. CSP will need more personnel to handle the increase but this way even private sellers of guns can rest easy their transaction has passed some tests. Education is key also - educating families on what to look for and how to report it to medical professionals. Require education of all new gun owners on storage procedures, handling and gun safety as we do with handguns. Include in the program teaching gun owners to remove firearms from the house in the event of a family member having a sever psychiatric event.
5. The media needs to recognize their part in the development of these monsters. It might be a good idea for them to NOT show pictures or the names of a mass murderer or other kind of criminal in some large scale incident. Simply report the event properly and use a generic name for the perpetrator. We currently prevent those under 21 from watching adult movies and videos - why not do the same with ultra violent movies, videos, and gaming.

In a recent study by OLR 2007-R-0442 on Case Statistics for Firearms Statutes

we find that 91% of the offenses registered in CT were either nolleed or plead to a lesser charge. This is further qualified by the recent theft of a firearm from an East Windsor Gun store. According to the Hartford Courant the thief was out on probation after being caught with 12 firearms at his home. He was only prosecuted and sentenced on one charge. Nothing will work unless its enforced.

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3. <http://atlantadailyworld.com/201212222508/Featured/mental-health-expert-parents-must-stop-being-in-denial-about-kids-violence>

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