

Dear Respected Committee,

I submit the following testimony for the public hearing on Gun Violence slated for January 28th @ 10am.

I write to you at a time in our country's history when we have been shocked to our core. With the recent shooting at the elementary school in Newtown, CT being one of the most horrific and disturbing things any of us can even imagine, it only stands to reason we would stop to reevaluate our laws, our security and our responsibilities.

I, like many others, believe this is a time to act. I also believe that it is a time to gather the facts, to look at what can be done, both proactively and re-actively. I do not know for certain what could prevent a mass shooting like we saw on 14 December 2012 in Newtown; I would also go so far as to say that no one does. However, I do believe we know, by evaluating facts, looking at other cities/states, and looking at history, what will not work.

We know that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. By extension, we then know that the laws we have right now that did not prevent this horror, and new laws added to them, will also not prevent the next mass murderer from carrying out their psychopathic rampage.

We also know that these "mass shooters" are cowards. They choose locations where they know they will be in complete control. They generally commit suicide as soon as they sense any retaliatory action via firearms. With one exception, every public shooting since 1950 involving 3 or more deaths, has taken place where a law abiding citizen was restricted from carrying a concealed firearm. The federal government has created free fire zones at our schools. Much the same way the Aurora shooter chose that particular movie theater specifically because it, too, is a free fire zone as evidenced by the posted signs not allowing firearms. This criminal, no doubt, would have chosen a different location if he had known there would have been someone shooting back at that school in Newtown. Forgive me but, for the sake of argument, even if he still chose that school, someone would have been shooting back in that scenario, potentially saving many lives.

I write to you pleading for common sense and real reform.

1. Remove the federal law restricting law abiding citizens from carrying firearms anywhere, including school property.

a. Allow businesses and private property owners to request gun free area's on their property without threat of law abiding citizens on the property being arrested for trespassing.

2. In much the same fashion as schools have first aid, epi pens, fire extinguishers, automatic electronic defibrillators and other tools at their disposal (and also training for them) in an emergency, place secured firearms in schools and provide training to those faculty interested in their use.

a. Yes, I understand the reaction some may have about a firearm locked in a school; however I would rather have 1 lightly trained faculty member with a firearm standing up against a gunman than a classroom full of 5 year olds.

b. Training being critical and required for anyone who volunteers to be a part of any program related to helping defend our children.

3. Never, ever, under any circumstances attempt to dissolve, remove or hinder a law abiding citizen's God given right to defend him/herself.

4. Looking at the facts, lowering magazine capacity will also do little to nothing to have prevented or slowed this criminal. According to the coroner's report, some victims were shot up to 11 times. I am no doctor, but I do understand that it would not take 10 or even 9 rounds from a rifle to end a child's life. How would lower magazine capacity have helped in that instance? Maybe given a responder time to intervene as the shooter reloaded? Unlikely.

a. Keep in mind lower capacity also hinders a defender's ability to neutralize an attacker.

5. Much the same as the Federal Flight Deck Officers program where after 11 September 2001 attacks on the world trade center we armed pilots, let us consider all possibilities. If everything is on the table, then let's discuss a program to consider allowing conceal carry for teachers.

6. Please do not consider an option of putting police or security guards in schools. This is simply a waste of tax payer money. Over time, it would create a false sense of security, and the "security" person would be the first and easiest target of any gunman wishing to do harm.

7. To reiterate, as it is possibly the 2nd most important fundamental point; criminals will always have guns no matter what legislation you pass; criminals will always break the law, making laws to control them irrelevant.

8. Please remember that the most heinous and horrific school murders took place in 1927 with an explosive device ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath\\_School\\_disaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath_School_disaster)). Thirty-eight elementary school children were killed; no amount of legislation will protect us from that.

9. Assault weapons are machine guns, either burst or fully automatic fire or both along with semi-automatic. The firearm popularly referred to as "Bushmaster" or "AR" sold in the US in its semi-automatic-only firing configuration is not an assault rifle. It is similar, actually less powerful ballistically than most hunting rifles, but simply a semi-automatic rifle. Please do not confuse this point, and also reject statements from people who use the term "machine gun" and "assault rifle" incorrectly.

10. Please do not accept Senator Feinstein's labeling of these firearms as "assault rifles" and reject more registration laws and limitations on sales and transfers.

Our 2nd amendment of the constitution says we have the right to keep AND bear arms. Our founding fathers understood tyranny and terrorism, and they understood that the only way to defend yourself is to defend yourself. Do not remove the tools that we need to stop these psychopaths from carrying out their horror upon our communities.

The NRA estimates over 2 million people a year stop or avert a crime with a lawfully carried firearm. Even if that statistic is wildly exaggerated, it is still something to which we need pay attention. Statements from a law abiding citizen at the mall shooting in Oregon on 11 December 2012 shows us the reason the body count stopped at 2, was because he drew his legally

concealed firearm and scared the gunman away, who then committed suicide. In fact, according to statistics from 2007 17,352 (55.6%) of the total 31,224 firearm-related deaths were due to suicide. Of the rest, the far majority are repeat offenders from a failing judicial system, which is another debate and discussion.

Obviously, I am delving into another end of gun crime; the mass murderer is usually not a repeat offender. I pray, however, you will consider all the facts, all sides of this story and not pass a bill with a knee jerk reaction to the horrible act we saw on 14 December in Newtown, CT.

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