

**Safer Connecticut Committee,**

**I live in the Sandy Hook section of Newtown. My wife and I have three small children. The tragedy of December 14th has had such a profound impact in ways that I would never have imagined, our lives are forever changed. Our children are safe, but there is a void in our hearts that goes out to all those parents, family and friends who have lost their loved ones. I write you today simply as a parent interested in protecting our children as they set out each day in their innocence, not understanding the world in which they are destined to inherit. My greatest fear after this tragic event was that impassioned people and politicians with an agenda would set out to impose quick policies and new laws that would do nothing to protect our kids and would do everything to once again remove rights from law abiding citizens. I was praying for truth seeking men and women who would take a step back from their emotions and in the likeness of great Statesmen, would bring forth truth as a beacon in these troubled times.**

**My greatest fears appear to be coming to fruition. Politicians have once again lifted the banner of gun control in a means to restrict law abiding citizens under the umbrella of making the world safe with the result of doing nothing to protect our youngest generations. It is beyond me how any person of sound mind can believe that imposing laws to which law abiding citizens adhere and criminals scoff is going to have any affect in protecting any one. Politicians are crying the loudest for gun control and are only whispering about the serious deficiencies in our mental health system, the effects of violence in our movies or worst yet, in video games that infect young minds rendering them indifferent to human loss.**

**How ironic that in a time where this State has closed the State run mental facility, such as Fairfield Hills in Newtown, that such a tragedy were to occur in that very same town involving an individual that appears to have needed institutionalization. I believe that our existing laws need to be reviewed concerning firearms and any loopholes closed. I also believe that the mental health system in this State requires the same, if not greater review and I very much support placing qualified armed guards, police officers in our grammar schools. I oppose any immediate changes or additions to existing gun laws without a proper review of the aforementioned areas of concern. Please seek the truth in making the correct decisions in protecting our most valuable assets.**

**Respectfully,**

**Tom Whitmore**

Sandy Hook, Connecticut