

I hope that as you consider the tragedy of Sandy Hook and its emotional aftermath you remember that disenfranchising of the law-abiding does not protect the innocent. I hope you remember that you represent all the people and seeking to limit the Constitutional rights of any segment of the population; whether based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity or their belief in the importance of exercising their 2nd Amendment Rights as a portion of their personal safety plan, disenfranchises us all. The obscenity of one mentally-troubled young man's actions should not set the societal expectation of behavior of those who choose the obligations and responsibilities of the Right to Bear Arms. Mental Health practitioners are already voicing concern that their troubled clients civil rights not be infringed in the backlash to this incident. Let us not lash out emotionally in reaction and punitively isolate gun-owners. There were fire extinguishers and fire drills as part of the safety plan at Sandy Hook; let us not deceive ourselves that by disarming the rational and law-abiding we will be protecting children. We will not. Unless you are content to see brave and committed unarmed educators continue throwing themselves in front of their classes desperately trying to stop someone performing an unthinkable act of deliberate violence; allow an effective armed response to be an option for them, the same as a pilot and crew may defend their cockpit. Police cannot be everywhere all of the time; stopping the violence at its start may well mean it is necessary for a capable, trained and willing individual to meet it head on with a firearm as it starts. We put fire extinguishers in the school and do not expect teachers to beat out flames with their hands; give them the equivalent first response to this kind of threat.

Vic Duphily