

To the Editor,

I have a child that attends Newtown High School, and I will never forget that horrible morning when my cell phone rang and the message said all schools in town were on lockdown due to a shooting. The feeling was sickening, the emotions indescribable. All parents here in town and across the nation are groping for answers on how to protect our loved ones while they're at school.

Australia banned guns in 1997. Since then armed robbery is up 69%, assault with guns up 28%, gun murders up 19%, home invasions up 21%. The Swiss government mandates that each adult male keep a gun in his home. Semi-automatic guns can be purchased without a permit and are not registered with the government. That country has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. Those US cities with the strictest gun laws have the highest gun related crimes. All of our mass shootings have been in "gun free zones." Every 48 seconds someone in this country defends themselves with a GUN from some form of crime.

All the current "new sensible gun laws" being drafted in Ct, NY, and the congress, will do nothing to prevent another mass shooting. These bills belie the truth of the matter and will only make the likelihood of another Sandy Hook more probable. Our society has plenty of laws governing gun ownership and 99.99 percent of our law abiding citizens do not use guns illegally. Banning 30 round clips and semi- automatic guns is akin to banning pot, cocaine, and other contraband. Only criminals and the mentally deranged buy or access guns illegally and use them unlawfully. The banning of such things just makes them more available on the black market, in which case law abiding citizens are afforded no protection against the criminal element.

Lastly, the framers of our Constitution specified that our right to gun ownership shall not be infringed upon. They knew full well the treachery of tyranny under King George whom they had just deposed after eight bloody years of war. They wanted future generations of Americans to possess arms as a defense against any future tyrannical government that may arise. Let us not deprive our children of that right.

I would suggest a police (or retired police) officer at each school. Additionally, all volunteer teachers that have or would like to have a concealed carry weapon could do so (with training) while at school. At the very least, all teachers and administrators could be issued mace which can spray at least 25 feet. Mace will disable any perpetrator immediately. This would not "make our schools look like an armed fortress", but would put out a clear message to would be assailants. I, as do all parents, want my child safe while in school. Can we pick out the next mass murderer in a population of 310 million? Life changed on 9/11 and it changed on 12/14. Let's protect our kids.

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