

Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman

Dear Mr. Kim,

I am writing to extend my sincere appreciation for your generous support of law enforcement, first responder, and school safety training across the US.

Our children live in a world where the massacre of innocents at Sandy Hook Elementary School is a tragic reality. Every school, every police officer, every educator, and every parent knows that this kind of school massacre *could* happen again. Across America denial is being stripped away, to be replaced by a deep determination to take steps to *ensure* that, "It will *not* happen in our school. Not to *our* children!"

There is a deep desire to make our schools safe, and to have our police, first responders, and schools educated, informed, and trained in the measures they can take. But they do not always have access to the information and training available to help their local communities in this essential, lifesaving endeavor. Mr. Kim, that is where you and your team have been of such enormous value, in allowing me the opportunity to train our police and educators across America.

It has been my honor to train every U.S. Federal Agency and police in all fifty states, and I train all branches of the US Armed Forces. Today, after 13 years of war, my books are on the official "required" or "recommended" reading lists for the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, many federal agencies, and many law enforcement academies, in order to prepare our police and military to survive physically and mentally in deadly force incidents, and to provide "resiliency training" to prevent PTSD and psychological trauma after the incident. My training meets the "acid test" of the real world every day; and there is a reason why I am, by every measure, the most successful law enforcement trainer in the US.

This same life-saving, life-affirming training has been applied with incredible success as I train schools and educators nationwide, and (with your help) we will continue to help our schools deter, detect and defeat future attacks on our children. Indeed, some of those who would harm our children, are *currently* being deterred, detected, and defeated across the US, the majority of the time in circumstances that will never appear in the national media.

Not a single child has been killed in a school fire in the US in over 50 years, but

the US Bureau of Justice Statistics tells us that there were 56 "deaths by violence" in our schools in 1997. In 2006 a new "record" number of 63 "deaths by violence" occurred in our schools. The federal data is not complete for the year that 26 educators and students were murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School, but there can be no doubt that was a new "record" year for "deaths by violence" in our schools.

It has become clear that we need to apply the broad "fire prevention" model (building codes, fire exits, fire alarms, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, fire drills, fire hydrants, fire trucks and fire fighters) to keep our schools safe from and prepared for violence. This is what my training does, and this is what you have made possible through your generosity, foresight and leadership.

In good times and bad, you have been there, helping to make our communities healthier and safer places. There can be no doubt that you are saving lives, and I can never thank you enough for making it possible.

We will never know the fires that didn't happen because of our modern systemic fire prevention model. And we will never know the violence that is stopped, the psychological trauma that that is prevented, and the lives that are saved by providing this training to our first responders and to our schools. But let there be no doubt that you are saving lives, preparing our protectors, and preventing trauma with the training that you make possible through your generosity.

And finally, anything you can do to encourage others to do the same would be deeply and sincerely appreciated. You should not have to stand alone in this vital and worthy endeavor.

Again, I want to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks, on behalf of our first responders, our educators, and the infinitely precious children that are entrusted to their care every day. Sometimes the greatest love is not to sacrifice your life, but to live a life of sacrifice and service to others. You, sir, truly personify the spirit of sacrifice and service to others.

Sincerely,

Dave Grossman

Lt. Col. US Army (ret.)

Author and Trainer