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On Behalf Of:

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I lived in Connecticut when the killings at Sandy Hook occurred. My own children were in elementary school then and I found out about the shooting when friends from other parts of the country—knowing only that a public elementary school in the state we lived in was under attack—started reaching out to see if my kids were ok. For a brief, horrifying moment, I panicked. How must those parents have felt? They had sent their children off to school because it is a place of safety, where adults care for and protect children. And yet, those kids weren't safe; they, like so many other innocent children in this country, didn't come home because our government refuses to protect them, choosing instead to garner the support of those who feel their second amendment rights are more important than the lives of children. As an educator, there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think, "What if...", that I don't imagine the worst, that I don't worry about the safety of the kids with whom I work. How are we to educate our students to be risk-taking innovators who want to do good in the world when the world doesn't seem to want to keep them safe?

Asha Appel