

# Biden voices interest in new gun technology

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WASHINGTON — Looking for broader remedies to gun violence, Vice President Joe Biden expressed interest Friday in existing technology that would keep a gun from being fired by anyone other than the owner. He said such technology might have affected events in Connecticut last month when 20 youngsters and six teachers were gunned down inside their elementary school.

“Had the young man not had access to his mother’s arsenal, he may or may not have been able to get a gun,” said Biden, speaking of the gunman, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, who used weapons purchased by his mother to carry out the attack.

Biden said the technology exists but is expensive.

The vice president spoke during a portion of



Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with representatives from the video game industry in Washington on Friday. SUSAN WALSH/AP

a meeting with video game industry representatives that was open to media coverage. It was the latest in a series of meetings he’s held with interested parties on both sides of the issue as he finalizes the administration’s response to the Connecticut shooting.

Brian Farragher, chief operating officer at Andrus Children’s Center in White Plains, N.Y., attended another of the meetings Friday along

with a wide variety of professionals in fields ranging from government to non-profit foundations to social media.

Farragher is heavily involved in Andrus’ Sanctuary program, which is specifically designed to provide aid to society’s vulnerable men, women and children.

He said his own contributions to the conversation Friday came directly from his experience with the program.

“There’s a problem with violence in our society. Gun violence is the most lethal form, but physical violence erupts when there’s a preponderance of emotional and social violence,” Farragher said, later adding, “The kids we work with have had lots of exposure to violence – be it neglect, (physical) abuse or emotional abuse. And we wonder why they’re violent? It’s what we’ve modeled for them ... Overall, something has to change in the way we deal with each other.”

Biden said he hopes to send recommendations to President Barack Obama by Tuesday.

Friday’s meeting came a day after a similar meeting with the powerful National Rifle Association, which rejected Obama administration proposals to limit high-capacity ammunition magazines and dug in on its opposition to a ban on assault weapons, which

Obama has said he will propose to Congress.

NRA President David Keene, asked Friday if his group has enough support in Congress to fend off legislation to ban sales of assault weapons, indicated it does. “I do not think that there’s going to be a ban on so-called assault weapons passed by the Congress,” he said on NBC’s “Today.”

Opposition from the well-funded and politically powerful NRA underscores the challenges awaiting the White House if it seeks congressional approval for limiting guns and ammunition.

Obama can use his executive powers to act alone on some gun measures, but his options on the proposals opposed by the NRA are limited without Congress’ cooperation.

Biden’s proposals are also expected to include recommendations to address mental health care and violence on television, in movies and in video games.