

March 14, 2013

To: Public Safety Committee and Security Committee

On: The Connecticut Effect

I am the chairperson of the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford. I support the position of the LWVCT on guns and gun safety.

As elected members of the Legislature representing the people of CT who are demonstrating in major opinion polls that the majority of us want bans on assault weapons and large magazine clips, I ask you in your capacity as a leader with a responsibility to the citizens and voters in CT to pass comprehensive gun reform. Now.

I am urging each of you to personally work for and vote for legislation that is comprehensive, but particularly, legislation which calls for banning sales to the public of assault weapons that have military style features and high capacity ammunition magazines of more than 10 rounds, as well as universal background checks. I am very concerned and disappointed that to this point our legislators are doing just what the gun lobby wanted...waiting for the **Connecticut Effect** to pass. The safety of our children and anyone who is exposed to a shooter with high capacity magazines is compromised. Isn't what was seen on December 14, a slaughter of the worst sort? The description of one child's cut and severed body at Sandy Hook should be enough to get majority approval for these bans. The opposition can say all it wants that it is the person that causes the tragedy, but the high capacity magazine surely is the reason for so many murders in a few short minutes. Aren't we, you, responsible for the safety of citizens? Pass the laws that will ban the kinds of guns that have no business on our streets and the high capacity magazines. Don't delay. Pass the law. Do it now.

On safety and security in schools. It is ultimately a local decision how school districts determine what is best in their schools. I say this as a former Board of Education member in my town. However, as a parent and taxpayer, I don't want my schools to be like armed prisons. That will not and does not foster a comfortable learning environment. Armed guards could have unfortunate accidents such as the one a few days ago when a policeman accidentally shot himself in the middle of a police situation. There is ample evidence that where there are guns, there are accidents and deaths, whether the gun is that of a responsible gun owner or not.

Sincerely,  
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