

My name is Lestina Trainor, I have 3 children, and I live in Redding, CT. I am here--again--to speak for the MAJORITY of Connecticut citizens.

The majority of CT citizens want to ban the sale of military style assault weapons.

The majority of CT citizens want to ban the sale AND POSSESSION of high capacity magazine clips that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Regardless of how "passionate" our opponents may appear, they are not the majority. The majority of citizens are not in this room today: they're at work or at school or home with young children. They weren't given the day off, or bussed in by their employers. And they aren't people who are singularly focused on guns.

May I remind all of you sitting on the panel: we live in a Democracy. The majority RULES .

Most Connecticut citizens, like Governor Malloy, like Senator Blumenthal, like Senator Murphy, like Congressman Himes, countless other elected officials, law enforcement, and first responders in our state... MOST of us see NO VALID justification for CIVILIANS to possess military style assault weapons and high capacity clips.

For soldiers in the arena of war? Yes! These are clearly the weapons of choice. For law enforcement? Yes! Law enforcement, like the military, is charged with PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS!

But for regular old civilians like me?? There is no VALID justification.

But there are plenty of INVALID justifications. I've heard:

"I need military style assault weapons to defend my family." No, there are plenty of other firearms--more than adequate--to defend a family.

"Banning high capacity magazine clips is dumb--I can reload my weapon in 2 seconds flat!" Well, luckily some of our mass shooters haven't been so skilled. While attempting to reload, clips have been dropped, shooters have been tackled, and children in Sandy Hook--thank God--have escaped slaughter.

"Banning military style assault weapons is just the start! The REAL plan to take all of our guns...just like Hitler did!"

Wow. Ok. So if you truly view our government as tyrannical, and scheming against all gun owners, then please, I beg you! Help fix it! Run for office! Vote these tyrants out! That's how CIVILIANS do combat in a democracy! Not by arming themselves with military assault weapons for "just in case" they need to use them against the United States Government.

"Banning assault weapons with "cosmetic" military features is dumb because weapons with the same firepower will still be available. Well guess what? A pistol grip is not cosmetic. It's a deliberate upgrade that makes guns easier to grab, easier to hold, and easier to discharge. LIKE ALL military features, a pistol grip makes the an assault weapon that much more EFFICIENT for killing people. That's why these military features are scientifically developed--to make our soldiers MORE efficient at killing MORE people.

"Banning military style assault weapons will infringe upon the rights of AND PUNISH 'law-abiding citizens.'" Well, the Newtown shooter was a law-abiding citizen. Until he wasn't. All shooters at one time, are law-biding citizens. Until they aren't. This is not about punishing anyone. This is about ensuring that civilians--going about their normal, daily routines--are not subject to military-style assault!

Remember Newtown.

What happened there--a mass shooting--unfortunately, is a growing trend in our country. A new, grim reality, like "lock-down drills" in our schools.

Can we PLEASE make it more difficult--NOT EASIER-- for the next shooter to take multiple lives??

Any gun legislation passed in Connecticut MUST include a ban on military style assault weapons AND a ban on sale and possession of high capacity magazine clips over 10 rounds.

Connecticut lawmakers: please act now! You have studied, contemplated, discussed, and listened to all-concerned for long enough! No legislation passed at this time could possibly be deemed HASTY!! Newtown is waiting. Connecticut citizens--and the whole country--we are all waiting. Listen to the majority of Connecticut citizens.

Thank you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aea6Mij7OHE>

Sent from my iPad