

Subject: The Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony of Lisa M. Fryer, M.S. SLP-CCC

March 14, 2013

Dear Legislators of The Public Safety and Security Committee,

My name is Lisa Fryer and I reside in Ridgefield Connecticut where I am a mother to three beautiful children. We have a direct connection to a family who lost their child in the Newtown tragedy. I know the devastation that happened to their family could have easily happened to our family. We could have just as easily lost one of our children that day. It was circumstantial. Wherever your child happened to be that day decided if they lived or died.

I have now attended The Gun Violence Hearing here in Hartford and the Hearing in Newtown. And quite frankly I'm disgusted that we are here again and that you legislators, who I voted into office, have not passed the comprehensive commonsense gun legislation proposed by CAGV yet, specifically a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition. And for those politicians in these committees who don't support the CAGV measures, you should be ashamed of yourselves. You represent the people and the people want change NOW. Polls in CT have demonstrated increasing percentages showing that the MAJORITY of people support regular background checks, bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition. We have voted you into office and I demand you vote these bills into law. What are you waiting for? Are you hoping that the longer you wait, the less you will hear from me? I can give you that answer now. NO! I will continue to push until I feel that you have provided adequate laws that protect my children. Until I feel that you have done the job that I elected you to do.

I am also exhausted listening to peoples' gross misinterpretation of their Second Amendment Rights. I hear about their right to own a gun with no limitations. The Second Amendment does NOT give an open invitation to do as you wish. Recent rulings by the Supreme Court state that there can be regulation and limitations. Overall, My RIGHT to LIVE supersedes their right to a gun. My children have the right to live and I have the right to be safe in my community - in schools, theatres and malls. You are my government and your first job is to protect me and my family.

You have listened to days and days of expert and personal testimony giving you countless reasons to support safe gun laws. But it really comes down to commonsense. Gun owners should not have a problem undergoing a background check if they are honest and have nothing to hide. They should not feel imposed upon to partake in an annual registration. Gun owners do not need assault weapons for hunting or self defense. Assault weapons have been highly marketed with their accessories and high capacity ammunition, when they are really an effective and efficient killing machine.

Each one of you needs to ask yourself why you feel the need to respond to the MINORITY and outspoken NRA members who ask you for no legislation. Their response is to develop laws for mental health. Of course, we need new mental health legislation. That is an absolute. But it is

not the only thing we need. We are Americans. We can actually work on gun legislation, school safety measures and mental health legislation at the SAME time. It is not an either-or scenario. You know the NRA is comprised of gun manufacturing companies whose first priority is their pocketbook. This legislative action should not be about money. This is about safety of our children and citizens.

Finally, as an educator who has worked and will work again in the public schools, I find it ludicrous that an answer to this problem would be to provide armed guards or armed teachers in our beloved schools without addressing what guns are legally permitted in our society. I went into education to teach children. I should not be expected to be brave and willing to die when a gunman walks into my classroom when you don't have the courage to vote and enact commonsense safety gun legislation.

I elected you in the past, but I will not vote for you any longer if you don't support comprehensive commonsense gun legislation including a ban on high capacity ammunition and assault weapons. **If these measures are not included in the legislation, it is NOT COMPREHENSIVE enough to provide safety.** Thousands of CT families feel the same as I do. We are the MAJORITY. PASS the laws NOW.

In my first testimony I asked you to work in a bipartisan peaceful manner. Well, I'm well over that position. I expect you to vote on what is right. I expect you to vote with your conscience. I expect you to get the job done and **pass the CAGV Comprehensive Gun Legislation NOW including a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition.** The best memorial for the 26 children and adults murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary would be to enact gun safety legislation that should have been in place long ago!

Thank you