

Dear Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

My name is Wendy Skratt, I live in Stamford, CT and am a member of CT Against Gun Violence, and a mother of two young children.

As I've aged, I've watched our media and our society become more and more saturated with and desensitized to all types of violence. It is clear to me that the unfettered efforts of the NRA to loosen restrictions on guns and their regulation, along with our cultural embrace of violence as entertainment, has resulted in assaults with guns that are terrorizing our citizens. What else can you call a fear of going to the movie theatre or to school? We must take common sense action to reduce gun violence. Children that do not even feel safe in their schools are going to be at a disadvantage educationally.

I was in Hartford yesterday to speak to my legislators personally about these issues. That was the third time I've been to Hartford in as many months advocating for stronger gun safety laws. This advocacy will not stop until our laws reflect what the majority of CT residents support.

So I am writing today to urge you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by CAGV. It is distressing that even though CT has relatively strict gun laws compared to other states and our state has one of the lowest gun ownership percentages in the country, the Newtown shootings still happened here. This means that not only do we need to drastically improve our state gun control laws, but we also need to be a model for other states so that we can address these issues at a national level. If we stand up to say "enough is enough", embrace common sense solutions, and lead by example, others will follow. This comprehensive package of gun violence prevention measures will be a model for the nation and will go a long way towards keeping our communities safe. It is simply too easy to acquire a gun, whether legally or illegally in the U.S. The NRA would like us to believe that we can't reduce gun violence, only increase the number of gun owners.

This is a fallacy and you can help us create the real solutions to gun violence.

Our police officers and chiefs agree: they don't want to face overwhelming firepower on the streets; assault weapons and armor piercing bullets.

- Amending the assault weapon sales ban to require that such weapons only have one military style feature (and lists the most prevalent models of assault weapons to ensure they are included)
- Enacting a ban on the sale and possession of all high capacity ammunition magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds & make possession of these magazines illegal (there are no serial #s on ammo, so pre/post ban ammo cannot be identified)
- Ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the internet.

Assault weapons and high capacity ammunition are designed for maximum kill capacity. They should have no place in our communities.

Don't just take "responsible" gun owners at their word - make them prove they are responsible.

Regulate gun ownership with laws that make it take some effort to be a gun owner.

- Require permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns.
- Require registration of handguns with annual renewal.
- Require safety training for all gun owners.
- Require annual fee and background checks for all handguns owned.
- Restrict handgun sales to one gun/month.

It is clear that if we don't do something now, things will continue to get worse as they have for too long. Our safety shouldn't be left in the hands of just anyone who decides they want a gun tomorrow. Our safety is in your hands, as we've elected you to represent us. We need you to stand up for us.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Skratt

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