

**Dear committee members,**

**Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be heard today.**

**I am in favor of immediate reasonable, safer gun legislation and I am here today to tell you why.**

**My understanding is that it is a great privilege to live in a democracy, but at what cost? I believe that we each have a moral obligation to do what's right....both in our personal lives and for society in general. The NRA and pro-gun rights groups pay to bus in crowds of people to appeal to you so that they can own military style weapons or really any weapons that they want for reasons that I do not understand, but seem unwilling to budge an inch for the greater good of our society in general. All the while, here is what we've been doing in Newtown since December 14th:**

**Crying; burying children, deciding whether said children are too mangled for open caskets, navigating hearses in town, attending wakes, funerals, & masses in the name of lost loved ones, making victim's families meals, crying, consoling distraught children, attending meeting after meeting about what to do with the Sandy Hook School, seeking out emergency counseling, trying to sleep at night, seeking out long-term counseling, visiting sad neighbors, hugging strangers in the grocery store, joining groups for reasonable gun legislation, attending meetings of groups for reasonable gun legislation, avoiding the media, seeking out the media, increasing the education budget to include armed police officers at all Newtown schools, explaining to our children why they need armed guards at their schools,**

**crying, sorting snowflakes, driving to this Capital building to attend hearings, taking down memorials, entertaining children when school is not in session or when their stomachs hurt too much to go to school, holding meetings about how to allocate funds that have come into the town, crying, writing our town, state and federal legislators daily, calling them daily, taking a bus to Washington DC to meet to plead with legislators, riding bikes for 200 miles to make a point, attending fundraising concerts and events for the victim's families, seeing therapists, hiring babysitters to attend meetings, creating Facebook pages to encourage participation, tweeting to encourage participation, flying to the Superbowl, fighting on national TV about children's choirs, crying, meeting to replace the dead school principal and her staff, meeting with the Columbine principal, the past NYC mayor & survivors of other shootings to gain some insight as to how to move forward. Crying. Worrying about when this will happen again.**

**Are you exhausted by listening to this? We in Newtown are exhausted by living this nightmare. Simply exhausted. It's quite a burden we're bearing to have to muddle through this tragedy on top of having to fight so hard over and over again to try to enact a common-sense change. Isn't enough enough? Isn't it time to make a slight shift which allows all citizens to have their 2nd amendment rights but to regulate those rights in the name of the greater good and in the name of the safety of our society? In the name of our children? In the name of those precious 26 souls who died because people want to own a certain type of weapon just because they want to?**

**Please act immediately. It's very important that you do.**

**Thank you.**