

I am the mother of 3 sons, all of whom have gone through Sandy Hook School. My youngest son was in the building that fateful December 14th day. Our 20 minutes of not knowing where our son was ended. We had him to take home with us. Our time of not knowing pales in comparison to the hours that dozens of families waited and waited for some sort of trace of hope that their loved one would be coming home. We all know how that ended.

Tomorrow marks the third month of this horrific tragedy. We are living in the epicenter of all of it, every ripple effect, every act of kindness, every inaction that still seems to be taking place. I want to live in the epicenter of where we made a difference, where change actually took place. Don't you want the same? Living with the status quo is unacceptable, totally unacceptable. These children, these educators need to be remembered. They need to be the catalyst that got this country moving - because they certainly brought all of us to bended knee that day 3 months ago. They brought a nation and a world to their knees. Voices are being heard and to ignore those voices is a flagrant injustice to all of the victims.

In the words of David Wheeler, we MUST all try to imagine what these families are going through. For if we too quickly forget their indescribable grief, their deepening pain with each day, then we will continue to be mired in inaction. Aren't we better than that? I know I want better than that for my children, your children, and all the children that come before us. We can and should do right by them.

Act now. Decide responsibly. Make it happen. Reduce the amount of magazine clips for these weapons. Enforce universal background checks. Design the technology that the fingerprint of only the licensed owner can be used on the weapon. No one is trying to strip people of their rights to own a gun. There are responsible owners for sure, and they have rights, too. But Dear God, ban these assault weapons - period. There is no place for them in our society, and there is certainly no place for them in a home. Address the mental health component for these people. We owe them that right, as well. You know what is right and you know what needs to be done. Now do it. We voters are watching. Connecticut is watching. The nation is watching. Just do it.

We are forever changed by this - as individuals, as a town community, as a country at large. We will continue to be the voices for those that are no longer hear to speak for themselves. And we will continue to be the voices for those grief-stricken parents and siblings and spouses that lost the light and love of their families on December 14th who need our support and commitment to this effort. We can make change happen. We expect and demand that you go and do it. Now.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Finnegan ~ Sandy Hook mother of 3 boys