

I am writing as a concerned mother of three elementary-aged school children and as a Connecticut resident who is absolutely appalled that modifications to our existing gun laws have yet to take place.

As the horrific events in Sandy Hook were unfolding, I was standing in my kitchen, talking on the phone with my husband, sobbing uncontrollably. Good friends of ours have a first and third grader at Sandy Hook Elementary and we endured 15 agonizing minutes not knowing whether their children were alive or dead. To this day, the way I felt during that time still resurfaces every time I read another article, attend another vigil or march in another protest. It practically brings me to my knees.

Our friends are survivors...their children escaped...their daughter saw her teacher and classmates get shot...she ran...

What may be lost in the shuffle is that the families affected directly by this tragedy will never be the same. NEVER BE THE SAME. The damage that has been inflicted upon so many innocent students, parents and families cannot be erased by teddy bears, candlelight vigils and fundraisers.

It has been three months since that horrific day in which so many innocent lives were needlessly ripped away from us. Yet the terror of these events still haunts the survivors...in the slamming of a door...in the clamor of a bowling alley...in the middle of the night...

Why on earth should a slanted interpretation of our constitution trump the agony of my friend's first grader who still cries every day for her slain teacher?

Why should this state and this country let inflated claims of suppression of personal freedoms override the safety and well-being of our most precious Americans?

Why would any legislator vote against stricter gun laws that include a ban on assault rifles, universal background checks, and limits on high capacity magazines? **Why** can New York pass similar laws within one month of Sandy Hook, yet our representatives are still jostling for political position under the veil of "task forces and exploratory committees"?

Many heroes emerged from the events that transpired on December 14th..

- Six teachers and administrators who selflessly sacrificed their lives in an attempt to save the first graders at Sandy Hook.
- Hundreds of first responders who would have given their lives in defense of the children; many of whom now struggle to perform their professional duties.
- Hundreds of parents and families of the slain and of the survivors who will forever be shackled to the memory of what transpired that day, yet manage to endure.
- Tens of thousands of concerned citizens from Connecticut and around the country who have worked tirelessly to advance meaningful changes to the existing gun control laws.

There is one more group of heroes yet to be recognized. That group is YOU, our elected officials, who need to stand up for what you know, in your conscience and in your heart, is the only path to take. YOU, our legislators, who need to resist the urge to maintain the status quo. YOU, our trusted men and women of government, who cannot, should not and will not, acquiesce to the vocal minority intent on allowing such destructive firepower to remain readily available.

Any other solution does a tremendous disservice to the heroes of December 14th, to the residents of our state and to the future victims of gun-related violence...and there will be more.

ONLY YOU CAN ENACT THE CHANGES NECESSARY TO DECREASE THE CHANCES OF ANOTHER SANDY HOOK. THINK HOW MANY LIVES DEPEND ON IT!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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