

Dear Committee Chair and Committe Members.

My name is Kris Allen, I am a resident of West Hartford where I live with my wife and two children. I am writing to ask you to strengthen gun control laws in the state of Connecticut.

My god-daughter Ana Marquez-Greene was one of the children murdered in Sandy Hook on December 14th. Her death hasn't really changed my fundamental belief about guns or the laws surrounding them, but has served to wake me up from an apathetic slumber.

I don't envy your task. I appreciate your sincere efforts to represent the wishes of your constituents. There is such a tidal wave of opinions surging your way. I don't think we will ever be able to end hateful and violent actions in this world, but I believe we have an opportunity to lessen the risks of such a large scale event happening again. The forensic reports have been out for a couple of days now, and it is clear that powerful assault rifles and high capacity magazines enabled Adam Lanza to be far more an effective mass murderer that he otherwise may have been.

I would implore you to stay focused on the issue at hand. Folks on my side of this issue are not "trying to take all the guns away!" We want universal background checks, and a ban on military style assault rifles and high capacity magazines. Don't listen to those who would threaten you with charges of anti-Americanism for considering a more thoughtful definition of our second amendment rights that reflects modern day technological realities. Join me in rejecting this ridiculous idolatry of might-makes-right nationalism and our mythical omniscient superhero founding fathers.

Join me in rejecting the fear-soaked world view that holds that modest changes in gun control laws are the first step down an invisible slippery slope to facism. Join me in rejecting the idolatry of money, which Jesus reminds us is incompatible with anything truly life giving. I realize that some of the gun control laws under consideration will cost a few jobs here and there, and cause sport marksmen some inconvenience. They will also save a few lives, which is a fantastic opportunity. One has to balance pluses and minuses in any piece of legislation. People are precious, made in the image of God. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely Yours,

Kris Allen