

Thank you for listening to my testimony and that of so many other voters who are willing to fight for stricter gun control legislation. As a mother of three I have no choice but to continue this fight, because my children's lives are at stake. This epidemic of gun violence is not going away. It only gets worse every day. And with each new horrific, high profile act of violence, more Americans begin to realize that the gun culture is out of control.

We are only asking that guns be limited and regulated in the same way that cars, alcohol, prescription drugs, tobacco products and other potentially harmful products are. That is only reasonable. Just last week, the FDA began requiring a written prescription for each refill of even more types of prescription pain killers. This can certainly be a hardship for vulnerable people who live with chronic pain. They now have to find a way to their doctor's offices every time they need more medication. Yet, these people are making this sacrifice, because too many people are abusing prescription pain medication, and it is detrimental to our society. If those who suffer from constant pain can make sacrifices for the good of society as a whole, then gun owners can, too. If gun owners make a sacrifice by reloading more often, because they can't have high-capacity clips and it saves the life of even one child, it's worth it. It's not that much to ask if it saves a life. These are small sacrifices that save lives.

Please consider these reasonable and sane gun control measures. This issue is not going away, and your actions here will stay with you for your entire career. Make the right choice now and leave behind a legacy of life, not death.

I support legislation that will:

1. Strengthen our assault weapons ban by requiring that all weapons having military features be banned and that existing weapons defined as assault weapons be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state.
2. Ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds. Existing magazines must be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state.
3. Require permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns.
4. Require registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require: annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned; require that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person. Require safety inspection every three years.
5. Increase penalties for storage or safety violations. Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if a person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. The violation would be a Class D felony.
6. Internet: Ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the internet. This means companies would be prohibited from shipping guns or ammunition to CT residents.
7. Require license or permit to purchase any gun or ammunition and tax the sale of ammunition.
  1. Restrict handgun sales to one gun per month.

Thank you.

Lee Ann Murphy  
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