

My name is Lisa Schwartz. I have lived in Newtown for 20 years. I am represented by Dan Carter, and I must say that I've been disappointed in his stance. He has stated that he is "uncomfortable" with a ban on assault weapons, on constitutional grounds, claiming that it is inappropriate for governments to legislate rights that are bestowed by our founding documents. This reasoning is specious. Government has every right to legislate on behalf of the greater good of society. Indeed, that is one of its primary responsibilities. It's why we have an FDA, SEC, OSHA, and so many others. To say that government regulation is an infringement is absurd.

To the comments that this issue is "complicated," I would ask why? Because the NSSF has submitted a pictorial that suggests that banning the M-15 is akin to banning all long guns? Because essentially all guns are capable of similar firepower as the M-15? If this is true then the answer is not complicated, but simple: define limitations in terms of "destructive capacity." In other words, if a gun is capable of killing with precision, speed and massive devastation, then it has no place in civil society. If you use the term "carnage" to define the boundaries of what is acceptable, then this is issue not complicated at all.

We are not savages. We are human human living together in a civil society. What message are we sending by defending lethal weapons as forms of recreation?

Six and seven-year old children have been brutally murdered because of weak gun laws. This is a moral issue and a societal one. Please seek your conscience not your party line.

Thank you,

Lisa Schwartz
Newtown, CT parent