

Feb 13, 2013

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

As a mother, a grandmother and one of your constituents, I am asking you to take a serious approach to bringing forward, debating and voting on significant reforms to the gun laws of CT as well as the need to find additional solutions regarding violence of all types.

I focus on gun laws in particular because I believe that while not the entire solution to needless victims of violence, it can quickly change the availability of weapons and ammunition that have no business being a part of our economy.

My father was a proud NRA member but the leadership of the NRA do not represent my father's NRA. The economy of gun makers and ammunition makers has moved from sport and turned towards a much more sinister world of profits at the peril of the innocent. They have successfully brainwashed many of their members into believing that reasonable laws and controls will lead to the elimination of their 2nd amendment rights. It saddens me that it has become such a hard line for them. It is not about the 2nd amendment. It is about shifting our attitudes from violence.

Please share my concerns with your colleagues and insist that the State of Connecticut become a model for reasonable limits to protect the innocent.

At minimum include legislation for

- universal registration and background checks
- eliminate large capacity ammunition clips
- no sale of automatic and semi-automatic guns to the public
- stop gun trafficking

You were elected by the people and need to do the people's work. If the past hearing was weighted by speakers opposing stricter laws, it was because they are more prone to speaking out. One thing I have learned by getting involved for the first time is that too many CT citizens (me included) have had the belief that our representatives did not need to have us take time off work to march, write letters to you, or even hound you for a minute of your time. We believed we had elected reasonable, responsible representatives that judged issues on their merits. Now I'm not so sure. I'm disappointed that the task force was unwilling to issue a single report. Driven by pressure from gun lobbies and other donors, they seem unable to make common sense decisions. The Quinnipiac Poll is a much better gauge of public opinion than the shouting matches held in these hearings. Listen to the people not the lobby's bought by the makers of guns and ammunition. Listen to the pleas of the families whose hearts will never heal having lived firsthand the reality of extreme neglect of the rights of their loved ones to the pursuit of life, liberty and freedom.

Do not place your vote until you consider what the majority of people of Connecticut are asking you to do. I may have been silent in the past, but the past is past. The future of my

grandchildren is in your hands and I hold you responsible.

Sincerely,

Thanks Lori Chadwick

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