

Dear State Senators and Representatives,

As citizens of the United States, Connecticut and Milford, our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, supercede the rights of others to unregulated gun ownership.

Military weaponry does not belong in the hands of civilians.

Children should feel and be safe in school without it being turned into an armed camp. We need to provide better services to those with psycho-social needs, not cut budgets that provide vital services which will in turn create more isolation and unwanted consequences. Most people who have mental illness are victims, not perpetrators of violent crimes. Please do not criminalize mental illness or create an even greater barrier to obtaining treatment for mental health. We need more school psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, not less.

My right to free speech should not be chilled because my neighbors are arming themselves with guns. My child who attends middle school lost her freedom to attend school without fear. My husband and I lost our freedom from worry every time our children go off to school. I witnessed a long line of Milford residents applying for pistol permits. I do not feel safer, the opposite is true. Perhaps they have a child who will take their gun to school and open fire or accidentally shoot another child. We can't let that happen again.

What was previously unthinkable has already happened in Sandy Hook. We need to turn the tide of violence in American. The time to act is now.

Please read the following information and watch the following video.

[FBI Facts, 2010: Only 278 People Stopped From Committing A Crime With A Civilian Gun - Out Of 12,996 Homicides:](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/expanded/expandhomicidemain)

[www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/expanded/expandhomicidemain](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/expanded/expandhomicidemain)

AND

[10 Pro-gun Myths, Shot Down:](http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/01/pro-gun-myths-fact-check)

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*I agree with David Wheeler, father of 6-year-old Sandy Hook victim Ben Wheeler who gave testimony to the Connecticut legislature's Bipartisan Task Force on Violence and Public Safety. If you haven't already seen it, please watch the video:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc617Eposqg>

Connecticut must lead in protecting its citizens from more gun violence and the time to act is now.

Thank you.

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