

I was at the LOB all day today, (including standing outside in line for three hours in the snow) but never got to speak. Here is my testimony.

Honorable Legislators,

My name is Amy Pines and I live in Westport. I made arrangements today to get my children watched after school, taken safely to dance, to basketball, fed and squared away to get their homework done. I even added contingency plans for weather issues.

And then I drove up from Westport. It is extremely difficult for mothers to come up here for a full day, let alone a early dismissal snow day. You notice the gun enthusiasts here are overwhelmingly men...

I say this to let you know that whatever I have to do to,

I WILL DO

To let you know, that I support...and ask you to support... common sense gun laws.

I want a stricter ban on assault style weaponsand my while gun loving friends can split hairs about the name of these guns the point is, they are designed to look dramatic and tough and that's calculated to attract those who choose them, like these school shooters. If they are an innocent hunting rifle, then what's the attraction to making them look military?

I support the ban of high capacity clips. I love the ideas of charging a high tax on ammo, tacking the purchasers, and the requirement of liability insurance.

I want comprehensive background checks on ALL gun sales.

I support 1 gun per month purchase restrictions to slow trafficking and stiffer punishments on straw purchasers.

I have heard a lot of talk today by what sound like defiant children who don't want their hobby restricted. But I feel that if their hobby is using equipment so dangerous that innocent people are getting killed by the thousands, then their "hobby" is infringing on my right to safety and needs to be regulated. WE have the right to not have our children shot in school, at the movies or on the street corners.

I was at the million mom march in 2000 and have been working to support victims' families for over a decade, from the South Bronx to Bridgeport. I have no patience for people who don't want any inconvenience with their hobby while 300,000 mothers are burying their kids. As a mother I say ENOUGH.

To the legal, responsible gun owner, who has passed the background check and who keeps their guns safely stored, I say, the onus is on YOU. You are responsible for telling us how you can assure us that all the deadly firepower you so adamantly insist on keeping widely available, will not kill me or my loved ones.

The NRA has blocked every single gun safety measure we have proposed for a decade. So yes, the deaths of these kids ARE on you.

ALL our rights are protected, and we can ALL benefit by finding common sense solutions.

Responsible, legal gun owners should agree with that.

Please hear us now. And know that for every mom that gets here to wait all day for a three minute chance to speak, we have fifty more that we represent who just couldn't get away for the day.

Thank you for your service.

Amy Pines

WE CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS ANYMORE.

Sent from my iPad