

To The Connecticut Legislature:

The eyes of our nation are on you Connecticut. As a woman, a mother, and a former Connecticut resident now residing all the way across the country let me assure you, that the nation is watching.

Our collective hearts broke when those sickening, heinous, hateful, horrible shots were fired in Newtown. None of us will ever be the same. No parent I know will ever drop their child off at school, gymnastics, soccer, art --- you name it -- without thinking of Newtown for just even an instant. We are forever changed.

And now, it is time for the law to be changed too. The time for better gun control legislation is long overdue. We can't bring those 26 people back but we can ensure that their deaths will bring about critically needed change. Change for the better. Change for your safety. Change for my safety. Change for everyone's collective safety.

There is simply no excuse not to have better gun control. The NRA would say more guns are necessary but even the simplest research into what other countries have done with regard to similar situations and it's abundantly clear.

Just as we restrict alcohol, cigarettes, and the age at which one can drive so too must we restrict the capacity to own guns. We look to our government to protect all citizens from the destructive capacity of military grade, assault-type weapons and punishing ammunition as well as multiple magazine clips.

I see no conflict with our Second Amendment right to bear arms. The issue is just arming people responsibly so that another's right to bear arms doesn't trump my right to pursue life, liberty and a peaceful existence.

Proper gun legislation must do the following as a minimum:

1. Prohibiting ownership of functioning, military-type weapons such as assault weapons;
2. Prohibiting ownership of multiple-round ammunition clips and bullets designed to ensure death either with explosive tips or designed to not pass through the human body;
3. All hand gun and hunting weaponry must have improved background checks, mental health check, and database registry.
4. No weapons that have been purchased or are improperly registered may be grandfathered. Current owners must re-register legal weapons for a small fee. Assault-type rifles must be bought back based on collection of aforementioned fees.
5. Gun safety laws should make gun owners liable for negligent storage if any persons gains access to firearms and insures himself or another person or causes damage to property.
6. Gun law should ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition purchased over the internet.

7. Ammunition sales should be taxed and require seeing a gun license/permit to purchase ammunition.

8. Restrict handgun sales to one gun per month.

9. Gun law should also take into consideration how to appropriately re-licensing gun owners when/if/as their mental state changes and also test for maintaining their gun safety including documented hours of practice on a gun range.

Connecticut is a small but mighty state. I hope you will take a stand and make history.

Remember your mandate to serve the people. This is government for all people. Gun owners and non-owners alike. Please do not let the gun lobby MINORITY prevent what is right from happening any longer. Now is the time for sensible gun regulation. It is time to protect the people, all people and especially our nation's children.

Remember that what Connecticut decides will impact all people in our great nation. Now is the time to do the right thing. We are all watching.

Thank you,

Amy Ziff

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