

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Anne Watkins. I have a Masters in Public Health and am a resident of Bridgeport and have children ages 2 and 4. Like all of you, I am horrified by what transpired in Newtown in December. I am also horrified by the gun violence children and families in our urban centers experience on a daily basis. Gun violence is a public health issue. It transcends income, race, ethnicity and geography.

While many of our social challenges are quite difficult to address - education and poverty for example; gun violence is fairly straight forward. We can do something about this. We can do something about this in the same way we changed a culture around drunk driving, seatbelt usage and smoking. As legislators you are consistently called upon to address the hard problems. Hear us today, this issue matters. You have a chance here to take some pretty straightforward steps that will work to prevent gun violence on a grand scale.

I urge you to support our plea to ban high capacity ammunition magazines, strengthen the assault weapons ban, require permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, require the registration of handguns with an annual renewal, require an annual fee and annual background check for all handguns, tax ammunition sales, and restrict handgun sales to one gun per month. This is an easy one and we will support you fully in taking the necessary steps to do what's right.

-Anne Watkins
Bridgeport, CT