

January 25, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Connecticut Against Gun Violence (CAGV)

My name is Barbara Manville and I am from Sandy Hook, CT. My husband and I moved to Sandy Hook eighteen years ago with our two small boys Bill 6 and David 4. Our decision to move to Sandy Hook was based on the rural nature of the community and the quality public education that Newtown offered.

Over the years we developed strong bonds and friendships with our neighbors and parents of our children's friends. The local Sandy Hook Elementary School was a focal point of our lives. My husband and I volunteered as Cub Scout leaders, PTA committee members, helpers for the Jolly Green Giant Fair. I could go on and on. Of course, Mrs. D in the school office was a godsend to everyone. If there was ever a question about something Mrs. D would know...

As the unbelievable events of December 14th were unfolding, I couldn't think about the people I know that were probably in the building including teachers, staff and of course Mrs. D. Fortunately, Mrs. D, who is still working in the Sandy Hook Elementary School Office, was on vacation that dreadful day of December 14th, 2012.

Never in my mind could I have imagined the tragedy of that day.

Today, a month and a half later, we realize life as we knew it will never return. Part of our hearts and souls were ripped from us on that day never to return.

How could this have happened? The slaughtering of 20 innocent children and 7 adults was made possible by legally available assault weapons. Imagine one child was riddled with 11 bullets from a legally obtained assault weapon. Again, our town is so connected that we know the shooter's older brother. A friend knew the shooter's mother. How could this happen in our town? This could happen because it is legal!! When will this happen again?

As we come together today, know that my husband and I support the legislative agenda presented by Connecticut Against Gun Violence. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A ban on high capacity ammunition magazines
2. Strengthening the ban on assault weapons
3. Permits and background checks on all sales and transfer of guns
4. Registering handguns with an annual renewal
5. Annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned
6. Safety inspection every three years
7. Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if another person gains access and injures himself or someone else
8. Ban the transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet
9. Tax ammunition sales
10. Require a permit to purchase any gun or ammunition
11. Restrict handgun sales to one gun per month

In closing, please hear our voices from Sandy Hook and help pass the recommendations from "Connecticut Against Gun Violence."

Thank you,

Barbara Manville