

My name is Brad Greene. As a father and Sandy Hook resident, I am making a statement here today representing March for Change, a program of CT Against Gun Violence.

The people you see standing with me represent just a small fraction of those who have mobilized around the demand for common sense gun laws and who support meaningful change following the shootings at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. The heartbreak and sadness we all feel when we see pictures and hear the stories of the 26 killed is deeply personal. But our resolve to change laws which permit the proliferation of obscene levels of firepower and leave our families and communities unsafe is collective and has united us.

Many of those who have mobilized were not involved in the issue of gun violence and legislation prior to December 14<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the events in Sandy Hook provided an unwelcomed education, and we have come away appalled by what our laws allow. We are incredulous at the types of assault and semi-automatic weapons and magazine clips that are considered legal. The logic behind allowing anyone with a wad of cash to buy an arsenal without a background check is beyond our comprehension.

We want to be clear that we support the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. However, even one of our most conservative Supreme Court justices has declared that the right to bear arms is not unlimited and not without restriction. What we stand here demanding today and will march in support of on February 14<sup>th</sup> in Hartford are common sense changes to our gun laws to make our families, schools, theaters, malls and communities safer places.

So what does common sense look like? No one with a legitimate purpose needs a military-style assault or semi-automatic weapon or large capacity magazine. We support their ban and removal from our state. No one with a legitimate purpose should fear permits and universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers. Responsible gun owners should have no issue with registration and storage requirements for guns or limits on the number of guns which can be purchased in a month. We support the immediate enactment of these measures.

The world changed on December 14<sup>th</sup> and we are looking to the elected officials of our state to lead---not just our state, but the nation. As always there is a choice---you can cower in fear from the gun rights organizations who are determined to preserve the status quo and protect the gun industry. Or you can look into the faces of those standing around me and the thousands more like them in your constituencies. You can recognize that we are growing in numbers and our voices are growing in strength. You can do what is right and demonstrate the courage that it takes to choose common sense.

We trust you will choose common sense.

Thank you