

Sen. Joe Markley

I have just read your email and I thank you for the response. I agree that there is a lot of mental health issues that are not being addressed by society and social services. Asking for restriction on people who are mentally ill; limiting the type of weapon a person can own (I can't imagine anyone who needs an assault weapon unless they intend to kill and injure lots of people at once); and not allowing the sale of magazines holding 10 or more rounds are common sense changes. I almost lost my son-in-law about three years ago. He has bi-polar disorder and was able to purchase a weapon and bullets with no problem. My brother-in-law stopped him from committing suicide, took him to return the gun, and then my son-in-law was registered nationally as not being able to purchase fire arms due to his mental illness. We came close to losing a family member, and would not have the precious grandson God gave us in Jan.

No one wants to take away gun owners rights. It just takes using your brain and making the decision to doing the right thing. I am the proud wife of a disabled veteran who gave 34 yrs of his life serving his country so all of us could keep our freedom and rights. IT IS TIME FOR COMMON SENSE CHANGE. Those of us supporting these changes will not go away and won't be silenced until changes are made. Also, please note we will be closely monitoring how each member of Connecticut's legislature votes on this issue; and, also which members receive financial support for reelection from gun lobbyist groups, etc.

Looking for a safer CT!

Brenda Dodge

From: "Sen. Markley, Joe" <Joe.Markley@cga.ct.gov>
To: "bjdodge@comcast.net" <bjdodge@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 1:31:35 PM
Subject: RE: Listen to the Voices of Newtown-Ban Military Style

I wish I believed that by an act of the legislature, we could prevent heartbreaking and irrational acts of violence. I fear there is a sickness in our society no law can eradicate, and I can't pretend I know how to cure it.

As ranking Republican senator on the Human Services committee, I was appointed to the bipartisan task force subcommittee on mental health. Certainly that issue is central to December's tragedy, and to much grave misfortune in our world. With little time and preparation for our undertaking, the best we could do-without erring-was to identify a few worthy programs that might be expanded, and to point out some key topics for further study.

Chief among the problems I think the legislature must address is the coordination of state aid. Last year, as a member of the Program Review committee, I initiated a study of services for adolescents fighting addictions. I expect the recommendations of that

study to be adopted during this legislative session, and I believe that modest success may be a blueprint for continued progress.

The efficient and effective delivery of state services is my first priority as a legislator, an imperative which to my mind transcends partisan and ideological division. I have developed a strong relationship with the leaders in both parties who are involved with social services, and I look forward to working together after the session ends to craft thoughtful, thorough legislation to improve care for the mentally ill in Connecticut.

Difficult as it is to address the psychological problems of our time-or to identify in the soul of our society the root of such derangement as controlled the killer in Newtown-it is there I think we must focus, if we truly desire to create a saner and safer world. I don't believe the restrictions on firearms commonly proposed, such as an expansion of the definition of assault weapons or a limit on magazine capacity, would have made a difference at Sandy Hook.

Semi-automatic guns fire one bullet each time the trigger is pulled, without the need to empty the chamber and load a new round manually. What we term assault weapons don't fire more rapidly or with greater power or velocity than other semi-automatic guns. They simply have features which make them look more threatening, such as a pistol grip, folding stock, or flash suppressor.

Those accessories don't make the gun more dangerous. Any gun is a lethal weapon in the wrong hands. I support background checks, including sensible additional screening to identify people not fit to own firearms. I also believe we must keep violent criminals imprisoned, imposing severe sentences for crimes committed with a gun, and for illegal possession or sale of a weapon.

I will not support legislation which further restricts the rights of law-abiding gun owners and does nothing to make our society safer. The compulsion to 'do something,' regardless of its wisdom, is a dangerous legislative tendency. As President Lincoln said at his first inauguration, with our nation at the brink of civil war:

"My countrymen one and all, think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to hurry any of you in hot haste to a step which you would never take deliberately, that object will be frustrated by taking time; but no good object can be frustrated by it."

Though we may not agree, I want you to know that this is a subject I have pondered for years, and will continue to weigh. I thank you for sharing your opinion, and assure you that I take it seriously, and welcome your correspondence.

Joe

-----Original Message-----

From: bjdodge@comcast.net [<mailto:bjdodge@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 3:38 PM
To: Sen. Markley, Joe
Subject: Listen to the Voices of Newtown-Ban Military Style

Dear Senator Markley:

Please pass legislation that bans assault weapons and large capacity magazines and imposes commonsense regulation on guns. Now is the time. The Nation is watching Connecticut. The Legislative Task Force must recommend and the legislature must pass the strongest laws in the nation. Delay is not acceptable.

CT Against Gun Violence has proposed a comprehensive, commonsense agenda of anti-gun legislation: <http://www.cagv.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/CAGV-Legislative-Agenda.pdf> Legislation can be passed this month. Watch the CTN tape of the Newtown hearing at <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/CTNplayer.asp?odID=8643> and listen to the parents of the children at Sandy Hook. At the hearing, they asked for a ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines. They urged you to pass background checks and permits for the purchase of any gun or ammunition. They want guns registered and stored safely. You need to pass legislation that will put the nation on the path to ensuring there will be no more "Newtowns" and no more parents grieving over the loss of their children to gun violence.

It is time to protect our children, not special interests or gun manufacturers. We must lead the nation with smart gun laws!

Sincerely,

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