

I am writing in support of enacting in the State of Connecticut the following initiatives to reduce gun violence:

- Requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales, including those by private sellers that currently are exempt.
- Instituting a ban on assault weapons similar to that which was in place from 1994 to 2004 at the Federal level.
- Limiting ammunition magazines to 10 rounds.
- Banning the possession of armor-piercing bullets by anyone other than members of the military and law enforcement.
- Increasing criminal penalties for "straw purchasers," people who pass the required background check to buy a gun on behalf of someone else.
- Financing programs to train more police officers, first responders and school officials on how to respond to active armed attacks.
- Providing money to help schools develop emergency response plans.
- Providing money to expand mental health programs for young people.

I live in Wilton and December was a horrible month for us. In the same week as the Newtown shootings, my daughter's viola teacher was shot and killed by her husband apparently in a domestic dispute. Then, later in the week, several friends of friends were directly impacted by the Newtown massacre. We need to act responsibly and end the culture of gun violence in our state and country. I appreciate your support in reducing gun violence.

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