

Senator Looney,
Speaker of the House Sharkey,
Representative Cafero,
Senator Williams,
Senator McKinney,
Representative Aresimowicz,

I would like to submit my written testimony to urge you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence. I believe every step on this list of common sense legislation is imperative to take in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Mothers like me throughout CT are getting together, meeting in private homes, libraries and community centers in order to express our grief and outrage over the murders committed with guns in Newtown. We need to get rid of all assault weapons and the high capacity ammunition that feed them.

I support strong gun violence prevention laws because I believe we have a lot of catching up to do if we are to compare ourselves with dignity to nations with strict gun control and less gun deaths like England -- where my husband was born. In the 10 years we have known each other I have seen my husband cry only twice. Once was when his mother was diagnosed with cancer and the other time was December 14, 2012. We watched in shock and horror as our neighbors in Newtown were faced with the unthinkable tragedy - - their child's murder. But these children weren't just hit by one stray bullet. They were literally torn apart by the fire power of the Bushmaster rifle used by Adam Lanza. This type of weapon and ammunition holding more than seven rounds must be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement officials, or removed from the state, no grandfathering, no exceptions.

I also support the requirement of annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned; requirement that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person; require safety inspection every three years; making gun owners liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures him or herself or another person or causes damage to property -- the violation would be a class D felony.

These and other legislative proposals put forth by CAGV are reasonable steps we can take to keep our children safer. I urge you to act immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Caithlin De Marrais
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