

Carole G. Mulready
25 Montclair Drive
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107
(860) 523-1771 cgm1@mulready.biz

Senator Looney, Representative Miner and Members of the Task Force,

We have a right to be safe; I don't feel safe with the proliferation of guns in our society, especially when "right to carry" could include semi-automatics with large capacity ammunition clips. Connecticut should lead the nation in addressing the gun violence we experience too often.

I urge your support for legislative proposals that:

Ask for universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers in CT.-

Stop easy access to guns. Expand background checks to include gun shows, other private sales and transfers of long guns (rifles and shotguns).

Ban the possession or transfer of large capacity ammunition magazines carrying more than 7 rounds. It is imperative to get high capacity ammunition magazines off the streets. My brother is a hunter and agrees that there is no need for high capacity ammunition clips. He is happy with the 4 bullet clip that he uses most frequently when hunting.

Strengthen CT's assault weapons ban.

Protect law enforcement and improve public safety by strengthening CT's ban on assault weapons. Defining weapons based on functionality features and improving the current list of banned firearms included in state statutes.

Create a License and registration process.

I am in favor of a licensing and registration and insurance process similar to what the State does with motor vehicles. Guns are a public safety issue and a public health issue, just as cars and drivers were judged to be. NY Times reported on January 27, 2013 that Vice President Biden's gun violence commission received information" from more than 100 researchers in public health and related fields [who] pointed out that mortality rates from almost every major cause of death have declined over the past half century. Motor vehicle deaths per mile driven in America have fallen more than 80%. But the homicide rate in the United States, driven by guns, is almost exactly the same as it was in 1950." The Sandy Hook tragedy demonstrated along with other tragedies in 2012 that action to restrict the use of weapons intended for war needs to be taken for our safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Mulready
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