

To Whom It May Concern,

A friend of mine went to the "Safer Connecticut" hearing. Many around her were arguing that guns are "lifesaving devices." I am writing to let you that many of us in Connecticut do not share this sentiment. Statements like this concern me. Never in my life have I ever felt that having a gun would make me feel safer.

The very idea that we need guns to protect ourselves sounds like the description of a society where everyone is fighting against one another and is looking out only for themselves or their own family. That is not the country or the state that I wish to live in. I believe in the policy of helping each other to be safe. NOT with guns, but with laws, looking out for one another, trusting in and supporting law enforcement, and in having personal responsibility. Making smart choices, knowing your neighbors, there are many ways to look out for one another in our community that do not involve guns.

It is ludicrous to me that many people in the country are starting to claim that the 2nd Amendment is being compromised by the gun laws that President Obama is proposing. He is not asking for a law saying that people cannot have guns. The idea he is proposing is one of regulation and accountability. Private citizens can own hand guns. But having assault rifles that hold multiple rounds of bullets goes way beyond the parameters of the amendment. There is no need.

It is fine with me if gun owners want to argue for their legal rights. But, as a non-gun owner, I too should have rights to safety. Knowing that fewer people have the capability to do what people like Adam Lanza did is what makes me feel safer.

I happen to be an elementary school teacher, as well as a parent of a young child, here in CT. Despite what happened in Newtown, I do not feel that my school is not a safe place to be. We have plans in place for locking down the school should an emergency occur. Would I want our school to be even safer? Of course, but more guns is not the answer.

Before any gun laws change, I think we need to ask ourselves what kind of community we want to be here in Connecticut. Do we want to look out for each other, take care of our children, and enforce our laws and those of our government which help to regulate guns and gun ownership? Or, do we want to be a state that lives in fear with everyone hidden inside their homes with guns at the ready? I choose the former.

Sincerely,

Carrie Monachelli