

I would like to express my strong support for expanding the state's definition of an assault weapon to conform to the current strict California law and for including a limit on the magazine capacity of rifles and handguns to no more than ten bullets. I grew up in rural Illinois where my brothers still hunt. Once they had a few rifles; now they have arsenals of semi-automatic weapons with large-capacity magazines. I agree with the Newtown father who asked how does anyone need to have these horrible weapons.

I also support mandatory background checks for all gun sales, including at gun shows and for private sales of any kind. There should be no online sales of guns or ammunition. Ammunition sales must be made only to those who have a permit. Granting permits should start at the local level: the FBI doesn't necessarily know about domestic violence, drunk driving, threatening behavior, or emergency mental health interventions. Any of these should preclude gun ownership. I have a son who has been voluntarily hospitalized for severe depression. Recently he said I'm thinking of applying for a pistol permit and then smiled and added--just to demonstrate how lax things are. I know I am the last person in the world who should have a gun.

My husband and I live in a fairly isolated area outside of Danbury. Many years ago we considered having a gun for protection. We decided against it and I have enjoyed the peace of mind of never having to worry about anyone mistakenly shooting a family member, an innocent visitor, or neighbor, or of losing someone I love to impulsive suicide. These far outweigh any concerns about the possibility of having to deal with an intruder.

I am weary of the continuing epidemic of gun violence and I do not hold the view that the National Rifle Association is the legitimate body to determine gun policy in Connecticut, despite their numbers at the public hearing this past Monday. You elected officials are the ones to pass sensible laws that will protect all Connecticut residents.

I agree with many of the detailed initiatives proposed by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and I hope that you will consider their proposals.

Thank you.

Christine Halfar

8 Settlers Hill Road

Danbury CT 06811

203-730-0763