

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. My name is Dave Ackert. I live in Sandy Hook, and I am the founder of the newly formed Newtown Action Alliance. Over the past week, 100 of us went to Washington DC to march on the capitol to demand legislative action to reduce gun violence in our streets, in our homes, in our schools....in our modern society. In the past 48 hours, almost two hundred have joined our Newtown-based grass roots organization to take action...to demand action. It is on behalf of these people, and the ones that will be joining us in the coming days that I say “**Enough!**”

We believe that reforms in the gun industry will make all of us safer. This includes universal background checks on all gun purchases, the elimination of high capacity magazines and armor piercing ammunition, and removing military grade weapons from civilians.

Some of us are gun owners. We all oppose interfering with responsible gun ownership for sport, for hunting or to protect life & property. However, we recognize that other industries are well-regulated to protect the public. But not guns.

The Second Amendment reads: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Reasonable licensing and regulation for public safety is not infringement, it is responsibility. Your responsibility.

Other industries resisted rules to improve public safety. The auto industry, the tobacco industry, the drug industry and even the food industry. Thankfully, they all have been regulated to a certain degree. We now have seatbelts, airbags and child seats. Liability insurance requirements. Limits on tobacco & drug marketing tactics, including being prohibited from marketing to children, or giving samples to children. And many of these industries who's products place a financial burden on society are taxed to help offset those costs. Why doesn't any of this apply to the gun industry?

The answer comes down to money. The gun industry only cares about their profits. The NRA earns a commission on gun sales....literally. So it is in their self interests that they fund the political campaigns of so many lawmakers. The eyes of the nation, of the world, are on what our Connecticut lawmakers do. You need to be bold. You need to make a statement and set an example for any of the lawmakers whose careers are funded by the gun lobby.

The people of Newtown will not rest until together with the silent majority in Connecticut, and the silent majority in our country neutralize the special interests to bring about reasonable regulations to that require manufactures of lethal products, to act responsibly.

Please stand up to the self-serving gun lobby.

Thank you

Dave Ackert