

To Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

My name is Deborah Lewis. As a resident of Connecticut, I am appalled that we continue to provide the means for our citizens to purchase assault weapons and unlimited magazine rounds for mass murder. How many more mass killings does it take for these laws to change? Who of us has not thought about Aurora at least once when going to the movies, or Oregon when at a shopping mall and of course those small children of Newtown, which broke the hearts of our nation. And all this occurred in a few months time.

How can anyone in good conscious continue with business as usual and not make the changes needed to make our children, parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends safe. You have a duty to help protect the safety of the residents of the State of Connecticut. How would you feel if your child was harmed or killed by gun violence and you knew you had an opportunity to make a change, but chose not to do so. I don't want my children to die because of inaction on sensible gun laws, and I am sure you don't want yours to either. This is not about taking away the second amendment, but rather about enacting responsible gun laws now. The laws must be changed to ban assault weapons and ammunition magazines of more than 10 rounds, report the sale of large quantities of ammunition to the ATF and require background checks for ALL gun purchasers. We have limitations on the first amendment - we can't yell "fire in a public place, or say "I have a bomb" in the airport. This is no different, but vastly more deadly.

You have the power to make a difference for us. Don't put yourself in the position of saying "I wish I had" when it is too late.