

Dear Honorable Chairmen Looney and Miner, and Members of the Bipartisan Task Force,

My name is Debra Sourby and I live in Newtown. I urge you to pass the proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence.

While my dream is to see our nation without guns in the hands of citizens, I realize this will probably never happen. However, we can still work for a more peaceful society, instead of standing by, watching gun violence escalate with every passing year.

I understand that there will always be "bad" people and people who are insane. This is why the concept of "accountability" for "responsible" gun owners will never be enough. We have to remove this "temptation" of using guns to solve problems, commit crimes, and to act out delusional or paranoid thoughts and fantasies.

The only way we can do that is to remove many guns from the public's access. There are already so many guns "out there" in the communities across the country, that we will never get them all back, even if we had the money to buy them all back. But going forward, we can limit access to the guns that kill so many in quick succession, such as the assault rifles, and all semi-automatic weapons.

I support the imprinting of bullets to allow law enforcement to know exactly what gun a bullet came from.

As a taxpayer, I feel that the gun manufacturers should bear the cost of safety measures, just as the auto industry did for car safety measures.

There should be extra insurance liability required for gun owners, so that they, not the victims, pay for hospitalizations, wrongful death and wrongful injury claims, as well as funeral and survivor benefits to the deceased's family.

We will never have a peaceful society with so many armed citizens escalating the level of violence. Arming teachers, bus drivers, EMS, doctors and so on will not bring us peace. It will only escalate violence and create a more fear driven society.

It is time to end the "business as usual" approach to gun ownership. It may be a "right" but it is also a huge responsibility that has been abdicated by some responsible gun owners and by many irresponsible gun owners. The responsibility has monetary costs that must be paid by the gun industry and gun owners. Not paid by our children.

We may never have a gun free society, but with your leadership, we can make our schools, streets, and countryside, a safer place to live for our children and ourselves.

Sincerely,

Debra Sourby