

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

First thank you to all task force members for your attention to this important issue. My name is Diane Keefe. I live at 249 Chestnut Hill Rd Norwalk, CT. I am the daughter of two career FBI employees. My father carried a hand gun every day of his career. It was always unloaded at home. I have nothing against hunting or target shooting for those who are of sound mind. When I was a baby, my 18 year old half brother threatened my mother and the children with a knife saying "I want to make you feel the pain I feel inside". My mother locked herself and the 7 other children in our family in one of the bedrooms until my father came home hours later that day. My half brother was committed to a mental institution that day. He remains in a mental hospital today 54 years later. If he had had a gun I might not be here today.

I am here to **call for an outright ban on assault rifles and magazines containing more than 3 rounds of ammunition in Connecticut** to prevent more mass shootings.

Australia implemented a ban and a mandatory assault rifle gun buyback program after a massacre in 1996. According to the Washington Post homicides by firearms dropped by 59%. We need a statewide gun buyback program to decrease the number of semiautomatic weapons in our state. There should be much **stricter requirements and higher costs for hand gun and rifle permits** given the high costs imposed by gun misuse whether in crime, suicide or accidents. **There should be universal background checks. For any gun purchaser who wants to own more than one gun, a psychological evaluation at the purchaser's expense should be required before a permit is granted.** Please support measures to **increase waiting periods to at least one year and expand background checks to include those living in the home of the person purchasing a gun.** Do more than NY State law and require therapists to report to the local criminal justice authorities those who represent serious threats to identify those who present a danger to society. These notifications must be followed by an investigation to determine whether there are any guns in the unstable person's home. Criteria must be established to define when those guns can be confiscated for public safety.

Just as California is now considering, Connecticut should require all gun owners to register annually including model and serial number. All guns should be required to be kept in locked boxes with ammunition stored separately in a locked box with a home inspection as a condition to receive a gun permit. Please consider legislation that puts a 50% tax on all ammunition and a 10% tax on all gun purchases and dedicate these tax revenues to increase mental health funding targeted at mental health assessment and treatment of teen age boys in our public high schools to improve early intervention for those who may harm themselves or others.

In Feb. 2012 a 20 year old was murdered with a gun in South Norwalk. This same young man was shot in 2011 and had exchanged gun fire with attackers and witnessed the shooting death of his friend in 2010. In October, 2012 a woman was shot as part of an armed robbery in the parking lot of the Stop and Shop on the Post Rd in Norwalk. She was shot in her Mercedes. No one is immune.

In November, 2012 on Grumman Avenue in Wilton a mile from my home there was a husband and wife shooting with a rifle while their kids were in school. -a domestic dispute..

Ct Coalition Against Gun Violence says a gun in the home is 47x more likely to be used against a household member than against an intruder.

And Sandy Hook is what brings us all together today.

As in the new NY law require that stolen guns be reported within 24 hours. Large fines should be imposed on anyone found to be a buyer of a gun later found to be used in a crime.

Do not support legislation that prohibits cities and towns from banning firearms within their jurisdictions. We need to take the New England tradition of self rule to the local level to protect ourselves and our children rather than encouraging armed guards and open carry. An armed public is a dangerous public.

Please consider a measure as is proposed in NJ State Legislature to prohibit investments by the state of Connecticut pension fund in certain companies that manufacture, import or sell assault firearms for civilian use.

I submit to you that the second amendment was meant for well formed militias and muskets and that the framers of the Constitution would be rolling over in their graves if they saw it used to justify individual ownership of military style weapons.