

Testimony for Common Sense Gun Control Laws in the State of Connecticut

Elise Silkowski

I wish that I could be present today, Monday, January 28th, 2013 to testify in person to make sure you know that I strongly support common sense gun control laws in Connecticut.

I live in Newtown, Connecticut with my husband and two children and I regret that I waited until now to voice my opinions. If I'd spoken up earlier, perhaps the terrible tragedy in Newtown could have been prevented. The shootings at Columbine and Virginia Tech affected me deeply, but now this senseless crime has come to my town. Although I've always felt that assault weapons have no place in the private sector, I've never had the courage to stand up and state my opinions until now. I do believe that we need better gun control laws in Connecticut and that there are many steps that should be taken to reduce gun violence . . . but one step at a time.

I am not looking to infringe on the 2nd amendment. Our country's forefathers could never have foreseen the damage one of these weapons could do in just moments with their raw killing power. I forced myself to read the description Noah Pozner's mother wrote of her beautiful son's remains. I hope that you will read this too. I don't want to ban anyone's pistols or rifles however, assault weapons must be banned. Clip size should be restricted to 10 or less shots and assault weapons and large clips should be destroyed, removed from Connecticut or turned into law enforcement. We must limit the damage that can be done by persons who are set on killing others. These weapons belong only on the battlefield or in the hands of police.

I have found the courage to speak out. Now, I ask that you too, find the courage to stand up to the NRA and do what you know is right. Ban assault weapons and restrict clip size. Do not grandfather in existing weapons and clips. This is the first step in preventing tragedies like the one that occurred on December 14th, 2012 in my town.

With respect:

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