

To the members of the Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety:

The Newtown massacre has broken the hearts of every Connecticut citizen. I understand the desire to "do something" however creating rifle bans and proposing ridiculous gun restrictions on innocent law abiding citizens is NOT the answer. It will not prevent tragedies. It will only limit what citizens can use to protect themselves. The person who committed those murders was not a law abiding citizen. He broke many laws before he took his first shot. Will more laws prevent another massacre? No, they will not because **criminals do not obey the law.**

As you must know, in order to obtain a pistol permit one must have an extensive background check. If a teacher, principal, nurse, or custodian has been issued a pistol permit that means the state and FBI have found no reason to restrict that person from carrying a firearm. You mustn't deny them the right to defend themselves or others. Could this tragedy have been prevented by having armed citizens in the school? Maybe not but the number of persons killed might have been less. Gun free zones must be eliminated. Do you honestly believe that someone intent on causing harm will obey a sign? I don't because **criminals do not obey the law.**

You must ask yourself this question, WHY the crime was committed, NOT what weapon was used. American's number one sporting rifle, the AR15, is not to blame for the murders committed in Newtown. The murders were committed by a person. The weapon of his choice is not the problem. The problem lies within the mind of a killer. Since we know the cause is mental defect we must address that issue. 1. How do we identify a person who is in need of mental help? 2. How do we determine if he/she is a danger to self or others? 3. How can we as a society help the mentally ill? 4. How can we ensure that a person with harmful tendencies does not have access to a firearm? The answers to these questions are not more gun laws.

The AR-15 is particularly favored for its modularity, accuracy, light weight, and low recoil. As a woman I find these attributes make it ideal not only for shooting sports but also for home self-defense. I find it is easier to shoot as compared to a defense-caliber shotgun or pistol. Do not take away my choice of firearms.

Contrary to popular belief, rifles are rarely used in homicides. According to the Uniform Crime Reports on the FBI website, murder statistics for 2011 show that rifles were used in only 2.5% of homicides which is less than half the number committed by using hands or feet. The number of people murdered by knives is five times greater than those killed by rifles. Would murders decrease if we banned rifles or knives? No, because **criminals do not obey the law.**

I feel I must also remind you that the Second Amendment was not drafted for sport or hunting. The Second Amendment is about making sure the population would not be controlled by a tyrannical government. By limiting firearms choices you are infringing on

my right and the rights of other law abiding citizens. I strongly oppose any gun bans, gun restrictions, magazine capacity restrictions, or increased taxes on ammunition.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mais

A mom, gun owner, gun club officer, Connecticut Citizens Defense League member, and United States Patriot of Prospect, CT.

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-11>