

January 27, 2013

Dear Members of the Task Force Committee,

I am writing today to urge you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence. This comprehensive package of gun violence prevention measures will be a model for the nation and will go a long way towards keeping our children and communities safe.

We have reached the tipping point on this issue, and people like me throughout the country are counting on Connecticut to get rid of awful assault weapons and the high capacity magazines that feed them. The time is now to think of the safety of the public. We expect no less than the strongest gun safety measures in the nation.

I am a resident of Newtown, CT and a mother of children in the Newtown public schools. While my community is grieving and still reeling from December 14, 2012, in looking to the future, I wish for my children and future generations that they will be able to attend school without going through metal detectors or passing armed policemen in hallways with no natural light. Schools need to be safe, calm spaces where children can create and learn. Children and parents alike will feel safer in public places if there are NO assault weapons or high-capacity magazines available to ANYONE but the armed services and police.

We all have the right to own guns, but the current limits on that right are so far beyond what is reasonable that my right to live peacefully is far outweighed by the guns owners' rights to own weapons intended for the military. Reasonable balance is what is necessary. Hunting and sports guns with a limited capacity of repetitive shots are reasonable. Guns intended to murder as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time are not reasonable for public use.

This legislation will NOT keep law-abiding citizens from owning firearms. But it WILL make us safer and it WILL do more to prevent those prohibited by law from obtaining guns. It is time to protect our children, not gun manufacturers.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Elizabeth Murphy
14 Saddle Ridge Rd.
Newtown, CT 06470