

1/28/2013

Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety

Members of the Committee:

I write today to express my **opposition** to any and all legislation which would curtail the rights of Connecticut citizens to own and carry guns.

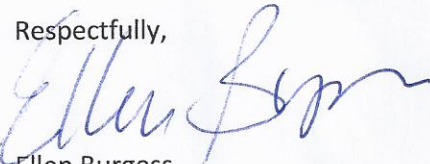
So much of the conversation lately regarding gun control is about the perpetrators of gun violence. I want to talk about the victims.

What would have happened in Sandy Hook if the principal of that school had met the shooter in the hallway with her own gun, which she was confident in using? What would have happened in Cheshire if either Dr. or Mrs. Pettit had met their home invaders with a gun? I have been haunted for more than a decade by the image of young Karen Clarke and her 8-year-old child, Leroy Brown, running terrified for their lives from their killer, who chased them down like dogs in their own home and shot both of them to death. What would have happened if Karen Clarke had had a gun in her hand?

Now, what would have happened if any one of these criminals had any suspicion at all that their victims MIGHT have a gun? You can bet that they would not have dared commit these crimes if they believed their victims might be armed.

Gun-free zones are an invitation to criminals, and so are gun control laws. The law-abiding citizens of Connecticut have a right to protect themselves, and that right can only be a deterrent to those who would victimize unarmed innocents.

Respectfully,



Ellen Burgess

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