

To: Connecticut General Assembly

As a concerned citizen and voter, I believe public safety and the rights of people to go about their daily business in peace are far more important than any right to own a gun.

I do not like to think about guns, but when the subject arises, what comes to mind are the occasions in my life when I have been threatened by guns. The abusive boyfriend in high school who told me he had a gun and threatened to use it when I tried to break up with him. The former husband who pointed a double-barreled shotgun at me and got mad (“It’s not loaded! Can’t you take a joke?”) when I didn’t see the humor in his attempt at some sort of John Wayne playacting. The time I was a passenger in a friend’s car in broad daylight on a Sunday afternoon, driving on a residential street in the Bull’s Head section of Stamford, when the rear window was suddenly shot out by a stray bullet. The time I was mowing my front lawn here in Norwalk when an unknown person shot me in the leg from a passing car – luckily it was only a BB gun and I was not seriously hurt.

I believe our society, our nation, and our wonderful state of Connecticut would be vastly improved if we did not have guns. At the very least, gun ownership and the ability to purchase ammunition should be regulated no less stringently than we regulate the ownership and operation of motor vehicles. The problems of gun violence and gun crime are many-faceted, but they come down to one common denominator: inappropriately easy access to guns.

Peaceable citizens have been silent for too long. It is a shame that an outrage like the Newtown school shootings has to be the catalyst for change, but let’s make the change now.

Sincerely,

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