

**CONNECTICUT RESIDENT GRANDMOTHER'S WRITTEN
TESTIMONY**

IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED LEGISLATION TO REDUCE

VIOLENCE BY GUNS AND

MORE FUNDING FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

TO: Ladies and Gentlemen of This Important Special Committee on
Gun Violence

DATE: January 24, 2013

399 words

My grandson Adam, a first grader, turned seven less than 30 days after 20 children just as beautiful and bright as he were pierced with deadly bullets at Sandy Hook Elementary. You are here today to confront this fact with action steps. They perished because a troubled young adult did not get identified and treated as someone who needed and therefore RECEIVED social services that might have averted bloodshed of those so young and innocent. I choose to put this statement first, ahead of calling for various gun-related legislation, although I do support such actions. Please increase funding for an array of social services in our schools. Please create funding for public service messaging on TV, music radio stations, and social networks providing a way to cry out for help when friends know a friend is tilting toward violent behavior – a Hotline like 211, but enhanced to deal with gun violence issues.

I taught high school Civics in Stamford and know first hand the limited resources our schools have to help troubled students. I am a member of the Bridgeport Area League of Women Voters and remind you that the National League of Women Voters since 1990 has had a policy urging passage of federal legislation to control the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States. We wish such action would have taken place in Washington D.C. back then, as it might, just might have saved the lives

of our fallen New Town children.

I live in Bridgeport where there were 19 gun-related homicides in 2012, including stray bullets that killed a three-year old on the front porch of the home.

Connecticut has led the way in the past. Politically we are the bluest of Blue States. We have a Governor and the majority of our Legislature of one party. What is holding us back from making it law for all owners of assault weapons to have to register these guns? What is holding us back from legislating intelligently about sale of bullets? What is holding us back from banning future sales of assault weapons in our state?

I think the number of voters who support my positions expressed here today out number voters who oppose. I urge you to find a reasoned path toward my positions. Thank you for this opportunity to participate in our democracy although I am out of state and could not attend.

Gail E. Janensch
3030 Park Ave.
Cottage 12
Bridgeport, CT 06604
203.856.4360
gailj2@optonline.net