

January 23, 2013

Dear honorable members of the School Safety and Gun Violence Committee,

My name is Grace Harte, I am 66 years old, a wife of 42 years, a mother of 7 children, foster Mom to over 40 children, sister, aunt, and grandmother to one 5 year old little girl. I also have a gun permit. After what happened to Dr. Petit and his family, I wanted to be able to protect my children and grand baby from any animal in the form of a human being that would think of breaking into my home and hurting innocent lives.

I felt comfortable with practicing using a handgun, and actually enjoyed target shooting. I decided I did not want to purchase a gun at the present time because I wanted to practice more and be sure if God forbid I ever had to protect my family I would to the best of my ability be proficient in that skill.

Sandy Hook will always be such a painful reminder of what a sick or evil person can do to other human beings. I go to church in Monroe, I pass by all the memorials, it is heartbreaking to think of what those who were massacred suffered.

I have always protected children in being a mother, grandmother, and foster mom. That is why I personally know in my heart that if you take away the rights of decent citizens to own a weapon whether they be assault rifles, revolvers, or whatever they choose to own. You will be enabling the mentally sick and evil people who would still get the weapons to carry out their sick plans. This is not rocket science.

I have been a member of different task forces to promote the better welfare of children when I worked for DCF as a foster parent and facilitator for educating potential foster parents, pre and post licensing. You all have a lot of pressure on you now to do something that will curb the terrible gun violence happening across our country. Yes please turn this into something very positive by having higher standards for mental health resources and hopefully people who have been diagnosed with illnesses of red flag aggression will get the help they need. I do not have all the answers. I do not think any of us do. But I know the answer is not to take away our right

for upright citizens to own a gun to protect themselves against an enemy, whether that enemy is in the battlefield in Middle East or one who breaks into my home and attempts to take away my liberty.

Gentlemen and Ladies, I implore you to please consider my humble letter.

Respectfully,

Grace Harte