

As a pediatrician living in Newtown and working at Danbury Hospital (I am writing as a private citizen), I strongly feel we need better antiviolenace legislation that must include universal background checks and whatever controls on assault weapons and high capacity magazines that can pass.

Law enforcement officers are a key group who can indentify the practical aspects of the above and are ready to help.

Physicians are a key group who can work on prevention efforts in concert with the state. The American Academy of Pediatrics and other professional organizations are ready to help.

Voters and citizens are strongly in favor of background checks, and there is majority support for the rest of the president's suggestions.

Please do everything you can to make certain that our friends and neighbors in Newtown have as our legacy a change in the current gun safety and gun violence laws.

We can do this and respect our neighbors who own guns. But we need to do this, and we need to do it now.

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