

My name is Heidi Hammer, I am a resident of Westport, CT. I am writing in support of dramatic gun control legislation in this state and in this country. I feel that the purpose of our right to bear arms has been manipulated and distorted from it's original intent and the result has been catastrophic. I am devastated and horrified by recent events in which innocent citizens, who also have rights, have been murdered and violently assaulted by weapons that do not belong in ANY average citizen's possession. I live with the burden of knowing that I have felt this way for a long time and have heard countless stories of people being injured and murdered and my complacency to speak up for change is a contributing factor in the picture. I am speaking up now. I will do my part by not remaining silent on the subject, even when I have to have very awkward conversations with friends about the weapons they keep in their homes. I hope this message reaches my elected politicians. As a citizen of the United States, I deserve to feel safe as much as my fellow citizens think they deserve the right to bear arms. The issues are complex, but our motivations should be united--to make our country a safe place for ALL citizens. I am the mother of three children. I am heartbroken by the horror of what guns have done to ALL of our communities and don't want this to be considered a normal thing. I want my children to know that I care enough to speak up, it is the right thing to do to speak up, and that I support efforts to mitigate the potential for more atrocity with guns by re-addressing gun control laws that require far more scrutiny of who owns guns, what they do with them, and how they safely store them. Thank you for your time and attention addressing this issue,
Heidi Hammer

My son, Max Hammer, age 15, would like you to know that he supports what I have written.