

Dear Task Force Members,

I am a daughter, a wife and a mother, a business owner. I have two beautiful daughters ages 8 and 10. My heart is truly broken as a result of what happened at Sandy Hook Elementary school on December 14th. I mourn as everyone else mourns for those individuals and those families. However, I am also a lawful gun owner.

I followed all of the rules, regulations and statutes of the State of Connecticut and paid all of the appropriate fees to obtain this permit legally. My husband is also a lawful gun owner. We own multiple gun safes to safeguard our armaments and teach our children to respect these tools for they are not toys. We take our responsibility seriously. I suspect that we characterize what most other lawful Connecticut citizen gun owners look like.

These various bans are an attack on lawful firearms owners and a violation of the 2nd Amendment. Punishing lawful gun owners is not the way to curb gun violence.

People drive drunk, people text and talk on cell phones while driving, people don't wear their seat belts, convicted pedophiles fail to register as sex offenders, people live in this country illegally. People break laws every day. Criminals and those who can't control their demons do not care whether they break the law. They will and do obtain weapons through whatever means possible, i.e. black market, organized crime, etc.

So-called assault weapons are variants of traditional rifles with more modern features. They are not automatic weapons. They are semi-automatic where you must pull the trigger each time a shot is fired. If Adam Lanza had used various hand guns to perpetrate his crime, would we be having the same conversation?

The change in our society's culture and values has become the beginning of our country's demise. Not only have our priorities changed, our country has become very self-centered. We are only concerned with quick fixes, money and material possessions and how things will affect us individually. Our children are taught that the world revolves around them instead of the other way around. You can't watch television lately without seeing examples of selfish, self-centered, egotistical behavior. Citizens have learned to think that they should always be right, have a "right" to always be first, the rules don't apply to them because an exception can always be made. We must address and acknowledge this and work to change it. We must negotiate, we must see each other's point of view as valid, find ways to meet in the middle and reward that behavior.

I am saddened and disappointed to read all of this proposed gun legislation and feel that it is unethical, unconstitutional and flawed in its approach. We need to focus on the "real" issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Santella
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