

To Whom it May Concern:

Regretfully, I am unable to be in Hartford today as I am home with a sick child.

Although I am a CT resident, I can assure you that I speak for many when I say that the shootings in Newtown have been a catalyst for increased and effective gun controls. We rely on you, as law makers, to keep your constituents safe. We rely on you to provide us with smart and effective gun controls.

There should be an absolute ban on owning military type weapons. These are not guns used by hunters...these are, by their very name, ASSAULT weapons. Their very purpose is to inflict harm...to people, not deer.

Along with this must be a prohibition on ownership of multiple round ammunition clips and bullets designed to ensure death either with explosive tips or by their design which does not allow them to pass through the human body.

Of course, along with this we must have far greater background checks and mental health reform. That may be a conversation and a law for another day...but today, please take a step in the right direction and ban these weapons and clips. There is no 'sport' here...just needless, violent death.

I strongly feel that if the autopsy pictures of those little bodies from Newtown, many riddled with up to 11 bullets, were shown to each and every American today, these laws would pass without any protest...and they would do so immediately.

If your child were one of those poor souls, massacred in innocence on December 14th...or one of the hundreds that are taken annually in much the same manner but, perhaps in a different city or town, each year wouldn't it be easy to see the clear choice.

Don't vote for the status quo, don't be bullied by the NRA...vote with your heart and do the right thing. I see no conflict between my insistence on responsible use of **non-military guns** and those who support our Second Amendment right to bear arms.

I am a mother, a daughter, a sister, a wife, a teacher and a voter. Please keep me, my family and my fellow citizens safe. One person's right to own a gun does not supersede the rest of the country's right to be safe.

Thank you,
Jennifer Barnard
New Canaan, CT