

I am writing to implore this commission and the state to adopt a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazine clips. I further support expanded background checks, a mandatory waiting period for firearms purchases, and improved registration/tracking of firearms. We cannot continue to allow the purchase of high capacity weapons with less oversight and regulation than we require for the purchase of Sudafed.

I am not against guns, and I fully respect the rights of those who choose to own guns for sport, hunting, and personal protection. But none of us should accept the status quo following the massacre of 20 first graders and 6 heroic adults on Dec 14th.

I have children who attend elementary school in Newtown. But I believe all parents have had their hearts broken by these events. We owe it to the victims, the survivors, and all of our children to make a change.

I fully understand gun violence is a complex subject. We desperately need to reevaluate the approach to mental health care in the state and the nation. In a fractured system, parents are left begging for help, and healthcare providers are left with little recourse when faced with individuals who may pose a danger to others. Fundamental questions about school security must be asked, and measures to improve school security and staff emergency training will likely be needed statewide.

But what happened at Sandy Hook was a slaughter. Of first graders. And it was done with a weapon whose sole purpose is to inflict maximum damage on its intended victim(s). No one needs these weapons to kill a deer. Nor are they needed to fend off some imagined future "tyranny". These weapons and these types of ammunition are designed to kill in brutal fashion. We as a state should want to be better than that.

This debate need not and should not boil down to the usual rhetoric from both sides. Two years ago the state proposed a ban on the very magazine used at Sandy Hook. The measure failed. We cannot find ourselves in 2 years time facing another horrific tragedy, wishing we had done more. THIS is the time to do more.

Thank you for your attention. Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for taking action.

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Sent from my iPhone