

Below is a petition I crafted, which has close to 300 signatures asking our legislators to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

We implore you to listen to the words of President Abraham Lincoln, a principled man of tremendous fortitude, who knew that, even though his country might flail and his life might be destroyed, he needed to stand on the side of sanity and morality. Our neighbors, friends, and families lives are lost forever and, so there is no middle ground; there is no gray area. Listen to President Abraham Lincoln, for he is speaking to us:

“The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”

Did you listen? We did, and we are following this noble man’s lead. It is time to act anew. And the time to act is now. Now is the time to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Jessyca Lyons Tucker
6 Roxbury Road
Woodbury CT 06798

We, the people of Newtown, Connecticut and this great nation ask you to put aside long held beliefs and steadfast traditions, and instead look at our communities' and our country’s present state. We are facing a public health crisis; not one involving a seasonal flu outbreak or diabetes or childhood obesity, but rather, one far more haunting and far more permanent – gun violence.

Why is it that [16 of the 26 worst mass shootings worldwide have occurred in our nation](#)*? Over 60% of the worst mass shootings in the world have occurred on

our soil by the hands of our citizens - not illegal immigrants and not foreign terrorists. One of our neighbors perpetrated these crimes, and [most of these perpetrators used legally purchased weapons](#)^{**}. The murderers are able to rain down such fury so quickly because most of them use semiautomatic weapons or even high capacity magazines – weapons that need not be manually reloaded, thus leading to more carnage.

Consider the approach of other industrialized nations. [In 1996, Australia endured a mass shooting which left 35 people dead, and the government took swift action to stop future horrors. They bought back one-fifth of the country's guns, private gun sales were banned, and licensing laws were stricter. In the years prior to 1996, Australia suffered 11 mass shootings; since 1996, that number is zero and firearm related crimes dropped 59%](#)^{***}. In Canada, there is a 28-day registration period and two individuals must vouch for the person purchasing the firearm.

There are hundreds of safety regulations within our local, state, and federal governments; one cannot build a pool in his backyard without placing a 4-foot high fence around it, one must wear a seatbelt, one cannot smoke in a public facility, a child under 70 lbs. must be in a car seat, and the use of hand held devices while driving is prohibited. In Connecticut, there is a mandate that children ages 6 months – 6 years attending day care or school must receive the flu vaccine; Connecticut's government deems that minimizing a flu outbreak is a public health crisis – yet the discussion of gun control is a hushed and taboo topic. Are there mass deaths from the flu in Connecticut? Does the flu kill 26 people in less than 15 minutes? The answer is clearly NO. If our government can agree to pass regulations to help ensure a certain level of safety concerning building codes, automobiles, and vaccines, why not concerning gun violence?

We recognize that as citizens of this great nation we are granted “the right... to keep and bear arms.” But our wise forefathers also wrote in the Declaration of

Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident... that ... (all men) are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Can we genuinely believe that as a nation we did enough to provide the 20 children and 6 teachers who were murdered in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14th, the 2 people killed at a Portland, Oregon Mall on December 11th, the 5 men and 1 women massacred attending their Sikh Temple outside Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 5th, and the 12 movie goers killed in Aurora, Colorado on July 20 an opportunity to pursue their lives, their liberties, and their happiness? We believe not.

Our insightful and humble forefathers knew that they could not create a Constitution, which held every law for all of the future generations of the United States of America. And so, in their wisdom they created the Constitution as a living document; one that could be adapted to the changing tides of our country. The Constitution was originally written with the Bill of Rights and our ancestors have since added Amendments 11 – 27. It is possible to make significant and meaningful adaptations to our Constitution; of course, such change is met with passionate debates, and often involves angering certain factions within our nation, but we believe we have no other choice. Our past Presidents and elected officials found a way through the quagmire, but do we possess the courage, strength, wisdom, and perseverance to do the same?

This is the defining moment. We would like to believe that our descendents will look upon this time in our nation’s history and remark that we stood on the side of justice and righteousness. We would like to believe that we would have had the courage to stand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his fight for civil rights, with the Women’s Suffrage Movement, and with one of our most respected and wise presidents, President Lincoln, in his mission to abolish slavery. And we would like to believe that you will stand with us here and now and say, “enough is enough.” The revered poet and educator, Dr. Maya Angelou, says, “When you know

better, you must do better.” In our hearts, we clearly know better, but now the question remains if we will do better.

We stand at a crossroads in our nation’s culture; are we willing to look into our children’s eyes and tell them that, as a country, we value our individual “right to keep and bear arms” over our nation’s responsibility to provide them and every American a certain level of safety in schools, malls, theatres, houses of worship, supermarkets, and other public places? Places, which are supposed to be venues of learning, joyful gathering, and spiritual peace, but which are instead stained with the blood of our innocent families, friends, and neighbors.

Mr. President and Members of Congress, we implore you to listen to the words of President Abraham Lincoln, a principled man of tremendous fortitude, who knew that, even though his country might flail and his life might be destroyed, he needed to stand on the side of sanity and morality. Our neighbors, friends, and families lives are lost forever and, so there is no middle ground; there is no gray area. Listen to President Abraham Lincoln, for he is speaking to us:

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Did you listen? We did, and we are following this noble man’s lead. It is time to act anew. And the time to act is now. Now is the time to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

Sincerely,

Jessyca Lyons-Tucker

Woodbury, CT

*The Worst Mass Shootings of the Past 50 Years, July 20, 2012 Time.Com

**A Guide to Mass Shootings in America, December 15, 2012 Motherjones.com

***After a 1996 Mass Shooting, Australia Enacted Strict Gun Laws, December 16, 2012 Slate.com

Signatures

Name Location Date

Duong Morris Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-19
Kersten Elenteny Mystic, CT, United States 2012-12-19
Ilana Graf Hartsdale, NY, United States 2012-12-19
Lea Litman Staten Island, NY, United States 2012-12-19
Tithi Malik Farmingdale, NY, United States 2012-12-19
Sheala Bacon Savannah, GA, United States 2012-12-19
Justin Voss marion, IA, United States 2012-12-19
Joleen Wofford Fresno, CA, United States 2012-12-19
Laura Johnson Garden Grove, CA, United States 2012-12-19
FANNIE LE SANTA ANA, CA, United States 2012-12-19
Molly Frost Readsboro, VT, United States 2012-12-19
candace herman homestead, PA, United States 2012-12-19
audrey myers chatsworth, CA, United States 2012-12-19
Todd Snyder San Francisco, CA, United States 2012-12-19
Jen Yuzuk Monroe Township, NJ, United States 2012-12-20
Sabrina Feder Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Mary Poile Ridgefield, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Tracey Cullen Amityville, NY, United States 2012-12-20
LaTonya Cropper Bronx, NY, United States 2012-12-20
Robert Ortiz Phoenix, AZ, United States 2012-12-20
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Dawn Hoyng Haworth, NJ, United States 2012-12-20
TARA LEIGH CLAPS DARIEN, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Liana Fraenkel Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
William Morris Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Kristina Tartaglia Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Sandra Cutrone West Islip, NY, United States 2012-12-20
Jan Stivers New Paltz, NY, United States 2012-12-20

Name Location Date

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Lonni Farina Monroe, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Diana Bornstein Ringoes, NJ, United States 2012-12-20
ELEANOR MILLER Boston, MA, United States 2012-12-20
Mary Clavette Sandy Hook, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Matthew Tucker Roslindale, MA, United States 2012-12-20
Laurie Waterman Bethel, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Ron malyszka Bridgewater, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Michael Stivers New York, NY, United States 2012-12-20
Malaika Briles Aloha, OR, United States 2012-12-20
Jennifer Lyon Milford, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Katharine Herron Weston, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Gary Passineau Bethel, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Melissa Duda Southbury, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Stefanie Clavette Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Maura Bergman Southbury, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Dina Chatzikonstantiou Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Victoria Baldwin Roxbury, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Hilke Quast Ridgefield, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Patricia Zachman Bethel, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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James Shannon Danbury, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Evelyn DiCicco Stratford, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Kerry Brickel Oakville, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Suzanne Walsh wethersfield, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Tanya Shively Trumbull, CT, United States 2012-12-20
David Bergman Southbury, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Hope Stevens Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Kay Broderius Greeley, CO, United States 2012-12-20
Cathy Whelehan Redding, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Amparo Vanni Altadena, CA, United States 2012-12-20
Kevin Stivers New Paltz, NY, United States 2012-12-20
Linda Romano Southbury, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Sheri Bresson Bethel, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Theresa Tolley King George, VA, United States 2012-12-20
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Yana Re Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Louise Sherman Sandy Ridge, NC, United States 2012-12-20
melissa galit ny, NY, United States 2012-12-20
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Matilda Giampietro Washington, CT, United States 2012-12-20
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Liliya Gatt Emeryville, CA, United States 2012-12-20
Maria Da Silva Shelton, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Rosa Holler Milford, CT, United States 2012-12-20
Kimberly Carr Easton, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Phyllis Kuchuck New York, NY, United States 2012-12-21
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Kristine Allen FOREST HILLS, NY, United States 2012-12-21
Catherine Johnson Baltimore, MD, United States 2012-12-21
B H beaufort, SC, United States 2012-12-21
JASMINE DE PALMA NEW FAIRIFIELD, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Kseniya Gancho Stamford, CT, United States 2012-12-21
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Joan Knopp Branson, MO, United States 2012-12-21
C A Polnitsky Woodbury, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Nancy Roberts Weston, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Michael Kassan Wyckoff, NJ, United States 2012-12-21
Amy Heflin Northampton, MA, United States 2012-12-21
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Steve Wren Pompton Lakes, NJ, United States 2012-12-21
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Jeffrey Wiener waterbury, CT, United States 2012-12-21
george galanis oakville, CT, United States 2012-12-21
BOB COLMAN Canaan, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Dora agouras Brookfield, CT, United States 2012-12-21
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Kenny Foscue North Haven, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Richard Mulligan Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Donald Ratliff Greeley, CO, United States 2012-12-21
CAROLE TUCKER BREA, CA, United States 2012-12-21
george thorn adams, MA, United States 2012-12-21
vivian alves bridgeport, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Caroline Dumont North Haven, CT, United States 2012-12-21
Barbara Ung Whippany, NJ, United States 2012-12-21
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Ray Elling Farmington, CT, United States 2012-12-21
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Leslie Elias West Cornwall, CT, United States 2012-12-22
Ivy Louie New York, NY, United States 2012-12-22
Beth Carlton Chapel Hill, NC, United States 2012-12-22
Kathryn Poland South Amboy, NJ, United States 2012-12-22
Alison Cunningham Hamden, CT, United States 2012-12-22
Allie Perry New Haven, CT, United States 2012-12-22
John Lindner Middlefield, CT, United States 2012-12-22
Joan Moyher Orange, CT, United States 2012-12-22
Sushama Gokhale Larkspur, CA, United States 2012-12-22
Name Location Date
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Kate Flanagan Raleigh, NC, United States 2012-12-22
Aimee Zaas Chapel hill, NC, United States 2012-12-22
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sherry lyons pearlriver, NY, United States 2012-12-23
Michele Nieminen Southbury, CT, United States 2012-12-23
Linda Slauson Long Beach, CA, United States 2012-12-23
Julia Crisci Sandy Hook, CT, United States 2012-12-23
Heather Marchione Bronx, NY, United States 2012-12-23
Annmarie Ottman Marriottsville, MD, United States 2012-12-23
Raisa Sheynberg Washington, DC, United States 2012-12-23
Loretta Bossio Ridgefield, CT, United States 2012-12-23
Joy Diviny Blauvelt, NY, United States 2012-12-23
Steven Asher Durham, NC, United States 2012-12-24
Mary Beth Devery Danbury, CT, United States 2012-12-24
jeff devery Danbury, CT, United States 2012-12-24
Kimberly Martinez Stratford, CT, United States 2012-12-24
Julie Lieberman Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-24
Name Location Date
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Marcia Amato West Palm Beach, FL, United States 2012-12-24
Ruth Boerger Lit, CT, United States 2012-12-25
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Gail Menkes Staten Island, NY, United States 2012-12-26
Jillian Marble Belchertown, MA, United States 2012-12-26
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Andrea Sabian Staten Island, NY, United States 2012-12-26
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Christina May Vilas, NC, United States 2012-12-27
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Josephine Fedele Staten Island, NY, United States 2012-12-27
Malini Mayerhauser Orangeburg, NY, United States 2012-12-27
Michael Moulton Barkhamsted, CT, United States 2012-12-27
Daniel Federman Newtown, CT, United States 2012-12-27
Erica Fabrizio Frostburg, MD, United States 2012-12-27
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Aria Smith White Plains, NY, United States 2012-12-27
Karen Aleksic Brea, CA, United States 2012-12-28
Helen Tamourides Norwalk, CT, United States 2012-12-28
Lori Abad East Haven, CT, United States 2012-12-28
Anna-Marie Francis Brookhaven, NY, United States 2012-12-29
John Hebert Amityville, NY, United States 2012-12-29
Linda Lemmel columbus, OH, United States 2012-12-29
frank scarangelo spring hill, FL, United States 2012-12-30
Barbara ross Los Angeles, CA, United States 2012-12-31
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Dorothy Plumb Newton, MA, United States 2013-01-02
Monica Greer Hammond, LA, United States 2013-01-03
andrea filkins Alexandria, VA, United States 2013-01-03

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Deborah Brennan West Hartford, CT, United States 2013-01-04
January Cilentto Westport, CT, United States 2013-01-04
Joan lieberman Norwalk, CT, United States 2013-01-04
Amy Lamb Westport, CT, United States 2013-01-04
brian cilentto westport, CT, United States 2013-01-04
wayne cilentto Mamaroneck, NY, United States 2013-01-04
MARK STANFORD BLAUVELT, NY, United States 2013-01-04
Therese karlThereseKarl ryeLnRye, NY, United States 2013-01-04
Christina Cilentto Wilton, CT, United States 2013-01-04
Allen Levy Fairfield, CT, United States 2013-01-04
linda sorenson ocean ridge, FL, United States 2013-01-04
Diane Greenhill Westport, CT, United States 2013-01-04
Candace Benyei Redding, CT, United States 2013-01-04
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Diana Varnot Fairfield, CT, United States 2013-01-04
Lavinia Gardner Tampa, FL, United States 2013-01-04
Dee Searing Carbondale, CO, United States 2013-01-04
Mary Cosgrove Newtown, CT, United States 2013-01-05
Tali Kest Southbury, CT, United States 2013-01-06
Lauren Barnett Westport, CT, United States 2013-01-07
Janet Geoghegan Tolland, CT, United States 2013-01-07
Lois Stoeffhaas Bronxville, NY, United States 2013-01-08
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Karen Schmitt Rye, NY, United States 2013-01-08
Marcia Bean Bronx, NY, United States 2013-01-08
Michelle Lee Los Altos, CA, United States 2013-01-08
Christine Pakkala Westport, CT, United States 2013-01-10
Urania Fuller Messing Elmsford, NY, United States 2013-01-10
Chris Akarain ., WA, United States 2013-01-11
Meg Staunton Fairfield, CT, United States 2013-01-11
Cathy Hawn Rumson, NJ, United States 2013-01-12
Noelle Wilds Albuquerque, NM, United States 2013-01-12
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Kelly Cunningham Canton, OH, United States 2013-01-14
Don Desjarlais Little Falls, NY, United States 2013-01-14
Peter Propp Westport, CT, United States 2013-01-14
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Andrea House Cooperstown, NY, United States 2013-01-14
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