

To the work group:

As a civilian and retired physician I join the many voices pleading for effective Firearms and Ammunition regulation.

I would like to add a few considerations:

- How did we as a nation change the perception of smoking as desirable cultural behavior into a hazard to the well-being of our society? Are there parallels to the culture of gun ownership?

- We hear much about the rights the Second Amendment guaranteed everyone, but used by a minority of the population.

What about the First Amendment right of Life and The Pursuit of Happiness, which is guaranteed EVERYONE (the vast majority) and cannot be realized unless there is a reasonable degree of safety?

- The other side of the coin of the privilege to own arms is the duty to be responsible and accountable for them.

Does not regulation and enforcement thereof encourage the latter?

- Lastly, I wonder how many lives could have been extinguished in SIX MINUTES without the military style weapons used?

(A deranged person in China attacked 30 schoolchildren on a playground with a knife - though injured, NONE died).

I commend you all for your endeavor and assure you that my thoughts and prayers accompany you.

Joanna S. Gerber, M.D.
29 Timberwood Rd
West Hartford, CT 06117