

Dear Senator Looney, Rep. Miner and Members of the Task Force Committee,

My Name is Joanne Burstell and I support the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence. I live in Southport and I represent the March for Change.

We need to do more to keep guns away from people with backgrounds that include histories of criminal or violent behavior and we need to remove the most lethal weapons and accessories from the public domain.

I believe in the Second amendment and I do NOT believe in legislation that keeps law-abiding citizens from owning firearms. But the legislation proposed by Connecticut Against Gun Violence WILL make us safer and it WILL do more to prevent those prohibited by law from obtaining guns. It is time to protect our children, not gun manufacturers.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please pass legislation that will:

1. Strengthen our assault weapons ban by requiring that all weapons having military features be banned and that existing weapons defined as assault weapons be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state.
2. Ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds. Existing magazines must be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state.
3. Require permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns.
4. Require registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require: annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned; require that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person. Require safety inspection every three years.
5. Increase penalties for storage or safety violations. Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if a person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. The violation would be a Class D felony.
6. Internet: Ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the internet. This means companies would be prohibited from shipping guns or ammunition to CT residents.
7. Require license or permit to purchase any gun or ammunition and tax the sale of ammunition.
8. Restrict handgun sales to one gun per month.

Sincerely,  
Joanne Burstell  
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