

I respectfully ask the Connecticut State Legislature to consider and enact the following changes to gun legislation:

- Limit the types of guns available in Connecticut. Future sales of assault weapons should be illegal.
- Monitor sales and transfer of ownership of guns closely, requiring background checks as well as mental health evaluations. Just as with owning and operating a vehicle, a registration and permit system should be in place for any individual to purchase, own, and operate a gun and that system should require periodic renewals.
- Limit the number of firearms that may be purchased at one time.
- Regulate ammunition sales. Prevent ammunition sales over the internet. Future sales of high capacity ammunition magazines should be illegal.

In discussing these changes and others that are currently being proposed on this topic, please consider the full import of the presence of legally owned guns that are accessed and used unlawfully.

Each privately owned gun that is accessible to someone with criminal intent has not only the possibility to physically injure or kill, but also to create a pool of witnesses who -- like those first grade survivors of the Sandy Hook shooting that are now back in a classroom trying to learn to read, write, add, and subtract -- must advance through life with the indellible image of one person visiting unthinkable violence on another.

Connecticut state lawmakers, I am one of many who are ready to act and support elected officials who will not be fearful or bullied by the well-funded and vocal gun lobby. This moment is unique in history because voters, including me, who are generally disinterested in guns and have believed we had no opinion about the matter, that the presence of guns in our society did not impact us, now know we were wrong. The December 14 shooting of children and educators at Sandy Hook Elementary made us aware that gun legislation is relevant to each of us. This has been a catalyst for a formerly unorganized and voiceless segment of the population to begin to inform ourselves and participate in discussion about the subject of guns, ammunition, and gun safety.

There is now in Fairfield, around the State of Connecticut, and across the United States a strong and growing voter base of Americans who care enough to research, write about, and talk about guns with our friends, family, and neighbors. The conversation has already changed. The culture is changing. The laws will change.

We trust you to take legislative action on gun control to make Connecticut safer.

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