

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing because of my great concern about the easy legal availability of firearms in America and particularly Connecticut today.

It is sad to admit that when I hear about deaths from random street shootings I no longer even flinch. When I read about someone shooting their spouses, partners or children, I think how tragic, but I do not question their access to the deadly weapon that allowed the shootings to occur. The media do not even report on whether the firearms were legally or illegally obtained, whether they belonged to the shooter or not. It takes a tragedy like Newton Elementary to shake us out of our doldrums and help us realize that people have far too easy access to deadly weapons. Some people have evil intentions. Some people are not buying guns to go hunting, protect their homes from intruders, or bear arms against tyranny. They are doing so for the purpose of harming others or with the knowledge that the weapons may be used to harm others.

Also, the current gun ownership laws do not take into account their deadly nature. When an American wants to own a home or drive a car, they are obliged to insure them against possible harm or injury to others.

Why are firearms not treated the same way? Why are private transfers of firearms allowed without notice to local or federal agencies so that there is some responsibility for tracking them? We have stood by too long while gun lovers have done everything in their power to ease the purchase and irresponsible ownership of guns in this country. We must take a stand. We can not be a country which allows easy access of powerful firearms to people who may commit murder with them.

The NRA has proposed arming school staff with firearms, but that is a terrible burden on people who have gone into a profession out of their value of knowledge, our children and a nurturing spirit. It is a ridiculous proposal. Please stand up to those who love guns blindly and take action for responsible gun ownership. We do not mean to confiscate all guns, but we need to treat guns and gun ownership with the gravity that it deserves and not as the toys that gun advocates would have us treat them.

Thank you,

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