

[NOTE: I attended the hearing from 7-11:30pm - not enough time for all to speak. Here are my thoughts:] Please submit my testimony! I submitted prior comments and have yet to see them on the website.

Good evening Task Force. Thank you for serving, it is not an easy job, but I would guess you didn't take on your role because it would be easy so thank you again.

I am a concerned mother of a 2 year old son and a 5 year old daughter. I live in a neighboring town and wanted to come here tonight to show my support for the families and friends who lost their beautiful angels and.....to speak up on behalf of my own family and the future of my children.

Hours after hearing about the sandy hook massacre, I recognized a sound coming from my body...the level of sobbing at a fever pitch, as that of my coping/surviving in the hours after 911.. ..

After a time, I said ...NO..... Stop.... turn this great pain into something....do something If you sit back and say nothing then you are a part of the problem.

My first thought was to head to Newtown, to just be there and maybe what? Hug somebody? Console ...no I would be in the way.....stay away.

In the hours after the trajedy, I remembered that I actually have representatives that should be working for us.....better yet me! I am an independent voter and have voted across the aisles many times.....let me say that this gun legislation conversation discussion IS NOT political.... THIS IS COMMON SENSE.

I called my state reps, I called governor Malloy's and briefly talked to a staffer, I called the White House, and I was "shocked", that president Obama didn't answer..(ha ha).. but I did leave a message with the operator. I started to feel better just in reaching out (and his office did return an email in recent days describing his ambitions for gun legislation)

Guess what...the only representative to call me back was Toni Boucher and she called back in less than an hour..... thank you for that Toni! She listened.....she asked what I thought....I said first of all....very ordinary people like me are going to be calling you and your colleagues and asking for fundamental changes.

We talked about mental illness... yes a variable, but literally the largest VARIABLE there is! I said, you won't ever know who might be stable one day and fall off the deep end the next. The first prong that we need to focus on is ACCESS... Or

prohibiting gun access without proper accountability/tracking of guns. No we will never keep everyone safe all the time, but it is a start - you have to start somewhere.

I am like many others here tonight ... we don't want to repeal the 2nd amendment. This is not an ALL OR NOTHING situation, those that don't want any change in the status quo need to "stop trying to stop the conversation" that WE as a nation, need to have to move forward.

- I am a supporter of back ground checks for all gun owners with a DMV style tracking system federal/state - the fact that this has not occurred by now shows how little TRUE leadership there has been in this country - come on!
- Ban high magazine clips...with more than 7 rounds.... agreeing with the sportsman that spoke before ...10 shots in a clip seems absurd quite frankly
- I am a supporter of investing in mental illness assistance, having said that, THOSE people that say mental illness is the number one issue, better be prepared to fund help for the mentally challenged - so quit the rhetoric unless you are prepared to pay and pay big!
- I am not a supporter of any military style weapon that can mow down crowds of people in 2 seconds - these should be BANNED, as many honorable military that have served have said tonight. These very special people that have defended our country KNOW that it is a special right to use them - keep them for the men and women who defend our nation every day, not in the hands my neighbor who may have mental illness and does not responsibly lock them up!

My most important question... WHY are we not talking about the gun manufacturers that are making millions off these mass shootings with those that are in fear of the Adam lanza? Why are we talking about the decoy: the NRA....why aren't the CEOs names of Glock, Sig Sauer mentioned in place of the NRA? These business men (some of who were not even born in our country) profiting, while our quality of life goes down the tubes...the race to the bottom.. ..enough is enough!

I am not going to sit here and hope that this does not happen again You..... our elected officials in CT and in congress, need to know that lobbying from gun manufacturers and those organizations that benefit from the money & the greed should not supersede that of my right to know my child is safe in elementary school and to live and feel safe in our community.....this will be my number 1 voting issue until I see change.

Mrs. Kara Ash

