

To Whom It May Concern - As a citizen of the state of Connecticut, I am writing on behalf of myself, my husband and two children (ages 6 and 9), my extended family, my neighbors and the rest of the citizens of the State of Connecticut, to testify for the purposes of greater gun control safety laws.

I have long been an opponent of guns in any form. I grew up in a household where guns were not even considered. We did not hunt, we did not shoot for sport (though our local club offered skeet shooting), and we did not feel the need for self-protection in the form of a fire arm.

Since Columbine, I have been keenly aware of the mass shootings in this country, as well as the daily domestic, gang-related, random and accidental shootings. On 12/14/12, as the tragedy at Sandy Hook unfolded, I finally found myself to be in a spot where I could no longer stand by and witness the carnage that occurs every day in this country, and in this state.

As a long-time resident of the great state of CT (I grew up in Greenwich and now live in Norwalk), I found myself to be beyond consoling after what happened in Newtown. I cried and cried and cried, thinking of the children whose lives were taken from them. I cried even harder for the educators that were savagely murdered on that Friday in December, just before Christmas. I cried the hardest for the parents of the those 20 kids, wondering how in the world they were able to go on breathing. I, as a parent, didn't now if I'd ever be able to recover from something like that. And - I decided to do something about it, to get active.

On 12/17, 3 days after the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary, I launched the Fairfield County Chapter of One Million Moms for Gun Control, a national group that was started the day after the massacre by a like-minded mom (Shannon Watts). It's made me feel somewhat better, as if I am doing something, but, it's still not enough.

This is what I ask: I ask that we BAN all semi and automatic weapons. There is no reason whatsoever for anyone that's not law enforcement or military to be able to hold these types of weapons. I ask that we BAN all large/military capacity ammunition magazines. Similar to the above, there is no reason whatsoever for anyone that's not law enforcement or military to be able to hold these amounts of ammunition. I ask that we create a background check system that is followed as the system to obtain a drivers license is. It is absolutely INSANE that someone can purchase a weapon of any type without a thorough background check. The gun show, internet and back-of-pick-up-truck sales must be regulated to the fullest extent, just as we regulate alcohol.

These are my requests, as a citizen of CT. We are all Newtown. We must pass sensible gun laws, for our children and our grandchildren.

Thank you,  
Kara Nelson Baekey

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