

Dear Committee,

I am writing to you as a lifelong Connecticut resident, as a former teacher and as a mother. It is heartbreaking to me that I can no longer surprise my children at their schools without a lengthy verification process at the office. Or that we are spending valuable education dollars on walling off playgrounds and adding security. We have come to a place where my children are aware that they are never safe. That is the saddest part of all. We need to create legislation that addresses the needless deaths at Newtown, but more importantly makes it impossible for civilians to purchase military firearms, bullets, and protective gear. No deer needs to be hunted with a bullet that tears through bullet proof vest. Those bullets are designed for hunting humans.

As the mother of a special needs child, I urge you to look at the support systems in place for non criminal mentally ill Connecticut residents. While we are not at risk from 99% of these people we need to examine the way we support families, schools and ultimately communities in best assessing the need of individuals who may not be able to or interested in recognize their own instability.

We are at a crossroads, a Newtown happens every day in this country, sons kill parents, boyfriends kill girlfriends, mothers kill children, and strangers unleash their inner agony on each other. Please set a precedent that we as a state do not need to bury more children, fathers, mothers, friends and neighbors. That we recognize that for some people guns are a source of recreation and that we preserve their right to engage in those activities. However, it should not be legal in the state of Connecticut to own a gun more powerful than what one would need to kill a deer. There is no justification for it. A gun capable of killing a deer, will certainly offer its owner protection under the worst of circumstances. The guns in question with high capacity clips are designed for killing humans quickly, mercilessly and in great numbers.

Please take a stand on behalf of my children, your children, and their children.

Thank you,

Katherine Sanford