

To the Chairmen and women and members of the task force committee,

My name is Kori Gardner Hammel. I live in Stratford, CT.

I am speaking to you as a mother, as a former first grade teacher, and as a proud Connecticut citizen, to strongly urge you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence. This issue does not have one solution. The package submitted is comprehensive, fair and reasonable.

We need this common sense regulation and we need to start by getting rid of the most lethal and unnecessary guns-the so called assault weapons and high capacity magazine ammunition. We also need to strengthen the background check system-as it along with private sale loopholes are currently allowing easy sale to anyone-traffickers and criminals included. There has already been enough compromise on the part of those trying to reduce gun violence in our community.

I grew up 10 minutes from Sandy Hook. My children go to school within 15 miles of Newtown. These are our schools. These are our children. I do not want my 5 and 8 year olds to be afraid to go to school, to playgrounds, to malls, to a new friend's house, to the movie theater. My own daughter did not want me going to the public hearing in Hartford because she was afraid of the combination of possible anger fueled by debate and a deadly weapon in the mix or in her words "What if people who have lots of guns get mad at you and they bring their guns today?" Are any of us really safe anymore? There are some trained, responsible, sane gun owners out there. I realize this. But, we can't choose who gets to own a gun or 80 guns for that matter. Our laws must regulate that.

There have been over 1200 gun deaths since Sandy Hook. That is almost half the amount of American soldiers killed at war in Afganistan in 11 years. We are at war with ourselves.

My father is a hunter. He is a Republican. He happens to think there is no need for people, aside from trained military and police officers, to have semi-automatic weapons. He doesn't believe

people even need a handgun. He has gotten rid of his guns. This is not a politically divided issue. This is a public health crisis. Not regulating guns is limiting our freedom to safety..our freedom to life and the pursuit of happiness.

Not putting this legislation into action is saying its ok to let this happen again in our community. And, it's not.

I understand there needs to be legislation that addresses many facets of this problem. But we have to start somewhere. We can't wait any longer and I support every measure that CAGV is proposing.

Kori Gardner Hammel, Stratford, CT