

Dear Senator Looney, Representative Miner and members of the task force committee,

I was at the hearing yesterday and had to leave before my voice was heard. I submitted testimony, but I need to re-iterate that the way to keep us ALL safe is not more guns, it is safer and more common sense gun laws. I understand that you need to consider the concerns of those who live in such fear that they need and feel they must protect their families with guns, but I too want to protect my family, it is my right, and it is the job of our government to protect all of us with safer gun legislation; gun proliferation is NOT the answer. It is up to you to make the right choice for the greater good.

We must do everything in our power to prevent another Newtown massacre, and to make our city streets safer. I know that there is not one answer to this issue it needs to be addressed comprehensively, but the answer is NOT more guns. It is time to protect our children and our communities, not gun manufacturers. We must lead the nation with smart gun laws!

Please pass legislation that will:

1. Strengthen our assault weapons ban by requiring that all weapons having military features be banned and that existing weapons defined as assault weapons be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state.
2. Ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds. Existing magazines must be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state.
3. Require permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns.
4. Require registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require: annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned; require that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person. Require safety inspection every three years.
5. Increase penalties for storage or safety violations. Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if a person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. The violation would be a Class D felony.
6. Internet: Ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the internet. This means companies would be prohibited from shipping guns or ammunition to CT residents.
7. Require license or permit to purchase any gun or ammunition and tax the sale of ammunition.

8. Restrict handgun sales to one gun per month.

Sincerely,

Laura Porio Silence  
Fairfield, CT