My name is Laurie Markus, I am the mother of two children, a first and a fourth grader in Fairfield, Connecticut. I am a life-long Connecticut resident. I am also an Attorney and currently work as a Special Education Advocate. I have worked in law enforcement, and am sad to say that the crimes I prosecuted as an Assistant State Attorney, paled in comparison as to what happened in Newton. I am writing to support a ban on assault weapons in the State of Connecticut. Now is the time for us to wake up and realize how far we’ve slipped into an abyss of violence, hatred and thoughtlessness. We must start to work our way out, and give our children a safer world. Let’s begin a smarter, safer journey and ban assault weapons in Connecticut.