

Dear Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Policy Committee,

I am a professor of American history, a Connecticut resident, and a mother of two elementary - school aged children. There is simply NOTHING worse than what happened last month in Newtown. We have hit bottom. And this is not just about illegal gun ownership. **Adam Lanza's idiot mother was a legal gun owner who recklessly left them accessible to a problematic teenager. He still could have hurt people but there is no way he would have killed 20 babies and 6 others in under 3 minutes without access.**

Please remember that while the second amendment protects the right to own a gun, the rest of us and our precious children have the right to life-- these rights are not equal in a moral society and no one should have the unregulated right to own weapons deigned specifically to kill large numbers of human beings. the second amendment does not protect the right to stockpile weapons.

PLEASE, please strengthen the 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. Same deal with large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds as New York just did. Require permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of ALL guns.

Require handgun registration, licensing, training, and regular inspections. Handguns need to safely out of access from anyone under 18. Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property.

Anything beyond a handgun should not be allowed to be kept in a home, but at a firing range.

Ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet.

Please be aggressive. I am a Historian. I know CT was home to gun innovation and manufacturing, but that is and needs to remain History. There is nothing nostalgic about the fact that the worst gun massacre of our youngest children happened HERE. CT needs to be aggressive and we need to be a model for the nation and there hardly a better way of honoring our History than to be a leader of this country in rational gun control measures.

Leah Glaser  
Hamden, CT