

I am writing to you as a mother whose oldest child will start kindergarten this fall. I always expected to look toward this day with anxiety and emotion. I never dreamed I would look toward it with outright fear, as though I were sending her off to war, not school. Yet that is where we all are as parents after the atrocious evil we saw made real in Newtown.

If we consider ourselves a civilized society, then we must do everything in our power to prevent another Newtown massacre. If we are not willing to make modest sacrifices, like giving up assault weapons and high capacity magazines, in order to save the lives of more children, then we are saying that our guns are more important than our children. That is a sad statement and one that I vehemently oppose. It is time to protect our children, not gun manufacturers. I will be keeping a careful eye on this issue. This is my fight now. My children's lives are quite literally at stake. No politician who supports gun manufacturers over reasonable parents who want to live in a safer, more reasonable society will ever receive my vote for any elected office.

I support 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.

Gun enthusiasts can have access to guns even with this legislation in place. But guns will be regulated and limited in the same way that cars, alcohol, prescription drugs, tobacco products and other potentially harmful products are. That is only reasonable.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will be following your position on this issue closely.

Lee Ann Murphy
Stratford, CT