

Testimony of Lisa M. Fryer, M.S. SLP-CCC
Jan. 28, 2013

Dear Senator Looney, Representative Minder and Members of the Committee Task Force,

My name is Lisa Fryer and I am a resident of Ridgefield, CT. I am here today to urge you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by Connecticut Against Gun Violence. Encompassed is a comprehensive package of gun violence prevention measures that will make our children safer and rid our nation of assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

I am a Speech Language Pathologist who has worked in the public schools for many years and am also a mother to three beautiful children. My eldest daughter, Isabella, is a first grader who innocently spends her time ice skating, drawing and giggling with her friends. She is the same age as the young victims of Sandy Hook Elementary. My children want to know why these twenty children died, why such guns are given to people who can hurt them, and they ask "How do I know they are safe in their school now?". No parent should have to these answer questions to their children. As an educator I wonder whether schools are still a safe haven for learning, and if not, then what are we are doing to ensure that this trend reverses? How many shootings are enough to precipitate a response? You have the position, and influence, to make a positive change in gun laws. I urge you to take sensible action.

I understand this is a multi-faceted problem and the list is long, trying, and incomplete. However, because it is a difficult path does not entitle a course of no action. I respect the law-abiding hunter and know many; and as any sensible hunter would tell you, these assault weapons and high capacity magazines are not used for sport - they an effective means for mass and quick killing. I don't believe the Second Amendment grants me the right to arm myself anyway I see fit. There must be COMMONSENSE laws in place that will make gun ownership safer for our children and I believe the greater society supports this action now.

I urge you as my legislator to do the right thing. I urge you to ban semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity ammunition. Take back these assault weapons from our citizens and allow only law enforcement and military to possess them. Voice these positions loudly, work in a bi-partisan manner, and urge your constituents to do the same in a peaceful manner. Please take action now, do the right thing for our society, for our kids. For me, this is the only way that I will know in my heart that something positive has come out of these senseless tragedies. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.