

To all who will consider the subject of Gun laws:

I am a resident of Newtown, Connecticut. I did not know any of the victims directly, though I do have friends who worked at Sandy Hook School and survived the unthinkable. None of this makes me any more or less qualified to write about gun violence. But as a parent and a citizen, I feel it is my responsibility to lend my voice to the debate. Here are the three most fundamental questions I would like you to consider:

1) What is the stated purpose of an automatic or semi-automatic weapon? Are these guns used for hunting or sport?

If not, how do we justify their continued manufacture, sale and use?

2) What is the stated purpose of high capacity magazines? Since these devices enable multiple rounds in a matter of seconds, they are, for all intents and purposes, exactly the same as semi-automatic weapons. In which case, what is their purpose beyond mass-killing?

3) Is there a logical reason for opposing background checks? If so, what is it?

These are the questions I would ask if I were able to attend today's debate. To date, no one, not the NRA, the NSSF, nor a single lawmaker, has offered a credible response to these three questions. Reiterating the entitlements of the second amendment does not qualify as a response. Please address these issues for those of us who cannot fathom the answers.

Thank you for your consideration.

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