

To the Honorable members of the State House of Representatives and the State Senate:

I am a resident of Newtown. I would like to see the following changes signed into law:

1) Ban all semi-automatic weapons. We do not live in a military state. There is no practical use for these guns in a civil society.

2) Ban all high capacity magazine clips for the same reason as stated above. These devices transform guns into mass killing machines. If someone can validate the need for high capacity ammunition, then a motion to entertain should be considered. But I have yet to hear a single valid reason that justifies the use of high capacity clips or semi-automatic weapons. These are not used in sport nor in hunting; they are expressly for killing.

For purposes of self-defense, 7 round magazines are ample.

3) Mandatory background checks for ALL gun sales. No exceptions. This includes online, gun show and sale by owner.

As is required for the sale of an automobile, all paperwork should be filed with the appropriate state or federal agency.

4) There should be a national registry of all gun owners. Changes must be updated annually and should be subject to audit.

As you consider the right to bear arms, please remember that there is also a right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

No one should be deprived of the right to live free from the fear of gun violence.

To our legislators who do not reside in Newtown, please ask yourself how you would feel if the Sandy Hook Massacre had taken place in your town...if the children slaughtered had been your own. This is a decision that should be made based not on the interests of lobbying groups or the vagaries of political whims; this is a value judgement that must be made with your heart.

Whatever you do, remember that you will have to answer to your conscience for the rest of your life.

Thank you for your service to the State of Connecticut.

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