

Gun Violence Working Group

Dear members,

It is with an indescribable heavy heart that I write this testimony today. My beloved hometown, Newtown, is shaken and grieving. Newtown, with its enormous and proud American flag sitting literally in the middle of Main Street. Newtown, where folks from all over the state come to celebrate our Labor Day Parade each year. And now, Newtown, where twenty innocent, precious little children were slaughtered, along with six courageous teachers and administrators in the halls and classrooms of their school. A military grade assault weapon did the job, in the hands of a mentally unstable young man. He obtained many assault weapons right in his own home. Easy.

So now the burden weighs heavy of each and every one of our shoulders here. We've suffered the unimaginable, and today and every day for some time, we call to each other and to ourselves to stand up and demand gun legislation changes, school safety changes, and mental health changes.

The time is now to begin talking about gun law changes, in particular those laws surrounding military grade weapons and ammunition. How many more mass shootings need to happen before we decide that the need for this discussion and adequate changes has reached critical status? The facts are unavoidable: access to military grade assault weapons and unlimited ammunition is unreasonably, irrationally easy. In fact, one's ability to purchase and own any type of gun is far too easy. I get more scrutiny when I attempt to rescue a dog from a pound. Personally, I can't accept that anyone here in America, who isn't serving in the military or on a police force, should have access to these types of weapons. They are meant to kill people, lots of people, and kill them quickly. The current laws are far too weak and ineffective and allow anyone to essentially build a weapons arsenal in their own home!

Many will argue that they have a Constitutional right to "bear arms". Well, even constitutional rights come with limitations. When there is a threat, and clearly, gun ownership in too many cases is a threat, the government should step in and institute restrictions.

I charge each of you to make reasonable changes to our current gun laws. **Ban the sale of these military grade weapons and their ammunition NOW!**

Respectfully,

Lisa Wallace

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