

Dear Senators,

Our ten year old daughter has three friends who lost their siblings on December 14. How do you explain that to a child? We are lifelong Connecticut residents and have lived in Newtown for nearly 20 years. In the wake of our tragedy, we felt we needed to write to you. We were at the meeting on Wednesday at the high school, and we could see that you were intent on listening to all. Thank you.

Now we are relying on you once again to do the right thing and support the upcoming legislation that will begin to address gun violence in this state and in this country. At the meeting, we think one of the most salient points made was that the path that we have been on has been the wrong one. Things are not getting better. They are getting worse. More guns mean more deaths. Period. To continue the status quo means more shootings, more deaths, and more broken families and communities.

We support the 2nd Amendment and the responsibilities that go along with it. But paramount to that are the previously declared rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Where are our priorities?

We reject the notion that gun advocates say that "they want assault rifles and high-capacity magazines because the 2nd amendment affords them that right." It sounds like the refrain of petulant children. "I want it because I "can." Well, as we have taught our children, "just because you CAN doesn't mean you SHOULD." And there in lies the problem.

In this ME centric world, we have lost sight of the collective good. And that goes much further than any law can address. But reigning in these weapons of mass destruction and their ammunition is a beginning. If Adam Lanza had not had access to those automatic weapons and ammunition, at least some of those children and/or adults would be with us today. That is a fact. My ten year old daughter would not have to struggle to understand why THREE of her friends lost their siblings. Supporting improved mental health services is also a beginning. And improving school security is a beginning. And that is what we need now. A beginning.

We have to begin to move ourselves in the right direction. Please do that now. You are in the position to have a legacy of leading the change that will change the world. And we're sure you realize that.

As Gabby Giffords so valiantly put it: "Be brave. Be bold." Do what is right for your family, our family, the state and the country. Do not compromise your vote for the sake of politics. Make the decision that on your deathbed you would be proud to have made. Otherwise blood from the next mass shooting will be on your hands.

Sincerely,
Lisa and Michael Floros
32 Queen St.
Newtown