Dear Committee Members:

I urge you to take immediate action to protect innocent men, women and children from the abhorrent violence, and threat of violence, inflicted upon all of us under the guise of the Second Amendment.

I consider myself one of the lucky few who have not been directly affected by gun violence. However, I am a mother of two young children and my reaction to the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary was one of disbelief, disgust and deep sadness. Inaction on the part of our elected officials is not to be tolerated any longer. It is time for all of us to stand up to the powerful gun lobby, and those they generously fund, and take immediate action to STOP, once and for all, the manufacture, proliferation and ownership of all assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines. Common sense legislation is what we need now.

Unfortunately, it took the horrific mass killing at Sandy Hook to bring gun violence prevention to the top of the list of priorities at the local, state and national level. If we cannot protect the most innocent among us, we have failed miserably as a people and a nation. There is absolutely no comprehensible reason citizens of our country should own assault weapons. I support the toughest and most extensive legislative action possible to get these guns out of the hands of my fellow Americans.

I cannot even begin to comprehend how it must feel to be the mother who put her child on the school bus on December 14 in Newtown, not knowing it would be the last time she would ever see her child alive. The sad, shameful truth is – I could still be that mother.

Please, PLEASE do everything in your power to eliminate access to these atrocious weapons so many of us live in fear of each and every day. You have the power to MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN on the issue of gun control. I realize preventing future tragedies will require a multi-faceted approach. However, I strongly believe stricter gun laws, and enforcement of those laws, is paramount.

Respectfully submitted by Marcy M. Braselton, Greenwich, CT