

I grew up in Newtown, until I left at age 17 to go to college. I went to Sandy Hook School in the fourth grade. It was a peaceful and safe time.

I have two small grandsons. My older grandson is 6 years old, and I am very lucky in that I still get to hear him tell me he loves me.

There are 20 other sets of parents, grandparents, and other family and friends that no longer have that simple luxury, plus the families and friends of the six women who were slaughtered while trying having been put into a position no teacher should ever have to experience, protecting school children from a disturbed killer.

The NRA has managed to scare legislators all over the country by hiding behind the Second Amendment. That amendment was originally put into place by thoughtful men who were rightfully fearful of a tyrannical government, but it wasn't OUR government, it was England, whose kings they had watched disarm a large part of their population in order to hang onto power. How, over 200 years later, this justifies any citizen here to get hold of an assault weapon and military size clips and magazines, in the name of this Amendment, escapes me. These are weapons that are solely designed to do as much damage as possible in as little time as possible. Self-defense? If the statistics are correct, one is 5 times more likely to die in this country if one has a gun in the home.

Connecticut should consider and immediately pass legislation to require much more stringent controls on guns. The more guns there are, the more likely the result will be deadly, many times multiplied with these military-style weapons.

Require thorough background checks with no loopholes, take measures to ban all assault weapons and these large-capacity magazines, require owners to have a current registration of all guns and to account for the transfer of any gun to a new owner. We keep better track of our vehicles!

Yes, we do need to try to identify mentally ill people who should never have a gun, but how? The first step that can happen right now is to pass legislation to reduce and restrict the huge number of guns that is ever increasing in our society because we have such lax laws.

Adam Lanza evidently used a legally registered gun to kill its owner, his own mother, and then proceeded to do the unspeakable.

Please do the right thing and don't let this tragedy count for nothing. It is time we say "Enough is enough!" and begin to reverse the course and culture of gun violence in America.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts.

Mary Fox