

I am a mother of two school- aged daughters. My father and brothers are all law abiding duck hunters. I believe in the Second Amendment. I am writing in support of stronger measures to prevent violence due to guns. Specifically, I support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines. I also support universal background checks. These are not partisan issues. These are not attempts to deprive Americans of their Second Amendment rights. These are common sense measures that will make our society safer while preserving an individual's right to bear arms. Surely, the massacres of innocent school children at Sandy Hook Elementary School, theater-goers in Aurora, students in Columbine and countless others show us the dangers of assault weapons armed with high capacity magazines. These are military-style weapons the sole purpose of which is to kill as many people as quickly as possible. Combined with magazines that potentially hold up to 100 bullets, these are not meant for self defense but for assault which is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as, " to make a physical attack on" somebody or something, most heinously of 6 and 7 year olds and teachers in Newtown. No rights under the Constitution are absolute. All such rights are subject to reasonable regulation. Please remember that and vote to ban assault weapons and use the "one military feature" standard. Please vote to ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds. Please vote to require a universal background check for the sale and transfer of all guns, including long guns. Pass these laws to make my family, and all families in Connecticut safer.

Thank you.
Mary Himes

Cos Cob, CT