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On August 15, 1996, my brother, a professor at San Diego State University, drove his family to campus. While they went to get ice cream, Preston went to hear a graduate student's thesis defense. Two minutes after the presentation started, Preston and two other professors were dead. Three young women were widowed. Five young children were orphaned and grew up never knowing their fathers. The student used a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun with large capacity magazines. One man died instantly. Preston and his colleague tried to escape, but were trapped. The shooter continued firing until they were all dead. They never had a chance. Over 40 shots were fired in less than 2 minutes. Preston was hit 11 times.

Connecticut is one of only seven states with an Assault Weapons Ban. But we are the only state that did not ban large capacity magazines in that legislation. These magazines are designed to enable shooting large numbers of people quickly and efficiently without reloading. They are not useful for hunting or target practice, but have been used in shootings in Tucson, Fort Hood, Virginia Tech, Columbine, and Manchester, CT. In the Tucson shooting, the damage done was limited to the firepower of his magazine; when it was empty, he was stopped. Unfortunately, he was able to hit 20 people in that very short time, killing six, including a nine-year-old girl.

Now it has happened again. 28 people dead this time, 20, just 6 and 7 years old. Again so many could be killed so quickly because the shooter used a semiautomatic weapon with high capacity magazines.

Why does America tolerate mass killings like the one in Tucson? Is the death of 20 little innocents enough to make us do something to stop it? Do we just stand by, wring our hands, and say nothing can be done? *We must make a change.*

We must ban semi automatic assault style weapons; ban large capacity magazines and limit them to no more than 7 rounds; close the loopholes on sales of all weapons; require permits and background checks for all gun purchases. This does not take away 2nd amendment rights. But it does ensure control and regulation so that the general public does not have to suffer any more outrageous and heinous mass murders.

For those who would say you couldn't stop every madman, you're right. But you can make it a lot harder for them to inflict so much damage.

I urge passage of these important safeguards *now*.

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