

To the members of the CT Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

My name is Meg Furniss Weisberg. I am a mother of two, including a 6-year old elementary school student. As are all parents and educators in Connecticut, I am in a state of shock and grief after the events in Newtown. I am writing today to implore you to channel these feelings into meaningful action to protect your constituents, and enact the measures proposed by CT Against Gun Violence (see below).

I realize that this is a very delicate subject for many people, and just the mere suggestion of regulation and laws causes some to react emotionally and feel that their freedom is threatened. I don't see it that way; no one is saying that law-abiding gun owners should have to relinquish their sport or sense of safety. I am saying that our children also have the right to be free from unnecessary gun violence, and there are common-sense measures that can be taken to ensure that freedom while guaranteeing the liberty of lawful sportsmen. They are as follows:

- **Ban possession and sale of automatic weapons, and large-capacity magazines, with NO grandfathering.**

I know of no legitimate reason to own or enjoy using an automatic weapon, and while they are responsible for a small fraction of gun deaths, the horror they can inflict is truly massive. You do not need an automatic weapon to protect yourself, nor do you need one to hunt, and they are putting our law enforcement officials at much greater risk—police often find themselves outgunned. Please do everything you can to get this sort of weapon entirely out of civilian circulation.

- **Universal background checks on ALL sales and ALL transfers.**

At gun shows, between gun dealers, between private individuals, in stores—EVERY sale. If the people wanting to buy a gun are doing so lawfully and have only upright intentions, I can see no reason why they would object. It is not an infringement on privacy, only a safety measure, since they are attempting to purchase a deadly weapon, and in effect, such a measure would protect lawful gun owners: if all purchases require a background check, fewer guns will get into the hands of people who shouldn't have them, fewer crimes will occur, and the stigma around guns will subside.

- **Registration of handguns, with renewal.**

You need license and registration for your car; your car needs to pass an emissions test; you must prove transfer of deed if you sell your car; the same should hold true for guns. In addition, it should be a crime not to report a lost or stolen gun.

- **Holding gun owners liable for negligent storage, requiring liability insurance.**

As many gun enthusiasts have stated, the problem is not with lawful gun owners, but with criminals who shouldn't have a gun in the first place. With the right to bear arms comes the responsibility for those arms, and the responsibility to keep track of them and keep them out of the hands of criminals. This ties in with making it a crime

not to report stolen or lost firearms. If someone wants a gun, can obtain it legally, and can use it safely, they are welcome to it, but they **MUST** be responsible for how that gun is used and by whom.

The organization, CT Against Gun Violence, outlines its policy proposals more extensively, and I will attach their document below, but I just want to say that now is the time to act, and I am sure you will do the right thing: take common sense steps to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and limit the kinds of guns available to those reasonably used for self-protection and sport. Thank you for your attention, and for your work to protect the citizens of Connecticut.

Respectfully,
Meg Furniss Weisberg
Guilford, CT

From CAGV:

Please pass legislation that:

1. Strengthens our assault weapons ban with a focus on improving current list and strengthening functionality features; apply “one military feature” test to definition of assault weapons. Bans possession and sale with no grandfathering.
2. Bans large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds. No grandfathering.
3. Requires universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers, including long guns.
4. Requires registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require annual fee and annual background check for all guns owned; stipulation that they are still in the possession of original purchaser or transferee; explanation for any gun still not being in their possession. Require safety inspection every three years. Charge fee on initial registration and renewal.
5. Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. The violation would be a Class D felony
6. Requires permit/license to purchase and carry all guns, including long guns, and to purchase ammunition
7. Prohibits sales of guns or ammunition via internet to CT residents. 8. Restricts handgun sales to one gun/month.

Other issues recommended by others and supported by CAGV:

- 50% tax on ammunition sales. Finished ammunition, not components.
- Graded permits based on level of training and proficiency (recommended by gun owners and NRA members).
- Liability insurance required for gun owners (most popular with the public).
- Microstamping of bullet casings
- A truly comprehensive bill that will stop these massacres (most consistent plea from the public).