

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Members,

I am a teacher at a school in Newtown. What our town has been through in the past months should never be repeated. I urge the task force to:

- 1 - Strengthen the assault weapons ban by requiring that all weapons having military features be banned and that existing weapons defined as assault weapons be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement or removed from the state.
- 2 - Ban large-capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds, and require that existing magazines of more than 7 rounds be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state. New York State has just adopted a law that established the 7-round limit.
- 3 - Require permits and universal background checks on all sales and transfers of guns, including long guns.
- 4 - Require registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require an annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned; require that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person; require safety inspection every three years.
- 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 - Ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet.
- 7 - Tax ammunition sales and require a license/permit to purchase any gun or ammunition.
- 8 - Restrict handgun sales to one gun/month.

Now is the time to act! Thank you,

Melissa Merklng