

Resident of Sandy Hook

Dear Senator Looney, Rep. Miner, and to all of the Members of the Task Force Committee:

My name is Michele Doyle. I live in Sandy Hook, CT. with my husband Tim, my son Michael 15, and my 13 year old daughter Meghan. Disbelief, horror and shock is what I felt on December 14th 2012. Twenty six people were shot dead by Adam Lanza. What? SHS? Really? This can't be happening. This is all just a horrible nightmare that I will wake up from soon. Wait, this is where my two children went to school. I worked as a substitute teacher at Sandy Hook School 6 years ago, while a teacher was on maternity leave. Helpless, shock and disbelief as these events were unfolding and verified. 12 girls, 8 boys and 6 adults were killed.

Noah Pulzner, Ben Wheeler, Dylan Hockley, Daniel Barden, Chase Kowalski, Jesse Lewis, James Mattioli, Jack Pinto, Charolette Bacon, Olivia Engel, Grace McDonnell, Josephine Gay, Emilie Parker, Allison Wyatt, Avielle Richman, Jessica Rekos, Madeleine Hsu, Catherine Hubbard, Mary Sherlach, Dawn Hocksprung, Vicki Soto, Anne Marie Murphy, Lauren Russo, Rachel Davino.

Since December 14th, I feel that I have taken for granted my freedom and safety as a citizen in my community, state and nation. I felt vulnerable, fearful and angry on December 14. I couldn't believe that in CT, there is no ban in place on assault rifles. And that these killing machines are out there legally. I have been naïve, uneducated, complacent, and ignorant when I think about the little knowledge I have on gun control.

I received a letter from my cousin Amy Ballard a few days after SHS shooting. She was a sophomore at Virginia Tech who was beyond devastated and knew several students who were killed in Blacksburg. She shared her story of healing, and said 'my heart breaking for anyone who has to experience these tragedies, but worse, that the scope of them never seems to diminish.' Enough is enough. I believe the time is now for change. No matter how long it takes.

I think about Senator Caroline McCarthy, an acquaintance, and reading more about the HUGE handgun problem. It is terrifying to hear about daily urban violence happening every day. I want our communities and our future to have a civil society.

I am writing today to urge you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence. This comprehensive package of gun violence prevention measures will be a model for the nation and will go a long way towards keeping our children and communities safe.

I agree and truly believe we have over reached our tipping point on this issue, and I know people like me throughout the country are counting on Connecticut to get rid of awful assault weapons, and the high capacity magazines that feed them. The time is now to think first of the safety of the public. I expect no less than the strongest gun safety measures in the nation.

This legislation will NOT keep law-abiding citizens from owning firearms. But it WILL make us safer and it WILL do more to prevent those prohibited by law from obtaining guns. It is time to protect our children, and innocent civilians not gun manufacturers.

Sincerely,

Michele Doyle