

Based on the evidence from other countries with strong gun control laws and the comparatively high level of suicides and homicides per capita in the U.S. it would seem prudent to take several steps to reduce gun violence in the United States and, specifically, in Connecticut. We are also very concerned about the lobbying efforts of the NRA to prevent research on gun violence and the effects of gun violence in our society. In our opinion, the NRA's refusal to take common sense steps (i.e. requiring criminal background check for all gun purchases) is a reflection of their bottom line interest in profits over gun safety.

In our opinion we should enact laws in Connecticut similar to those recently adopted in New York. We should do the following:

1. Require anyone who purchases a firearm to have a thorough criminal background check.
2. Reduce the size of magazines to a maximum of 7 rounds.
3. Ban military-style rifles (i.e. like the Bushmaster AR-15) as they did in Australia in the late 1990's after a mass killing incident. The effect of that ban had a substantial impact in reducing gun violence in Australia.
4. To require all firearms owners to take out liability insurance and to require all firearms owners to safely store their firearms.
5. To increase the presence of SROs (police officers) in every school system.

The argument from the NRA that we should "keep guns out of the hands of criminals and people with mental illness" and the simultaneous refusal to require criminal background checks on all gun purchases suggests the NRA is not as serious as they should be when it comes to taking steps to reduce gun violence. Also, NRA members make up less than 2% of the U.S. population – the majority of Americans want common sense and strong gun control regulations.

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