

Thank you for your time (Senator Looney, Representative Miner and) members of the Task Force Committee. My name is Miranda Pacchiana and I live in Sandy Hook. My three children all attended Sandy Hook School and benefited from the excellent education and safe, caring environment that it provided. As everyone knows, today our community is stricken with tragic loss and grief because of the catastrophic acts committed by one individual in the matter of a few minutes one December morning.

I am here today because I feel that it is my obligation as a mother and a citizen of Connecticut to urge you to pass the legislation proposed by *Connecticut Against Gun Violence*. This will be a vital step toward creating safer communities across the state.

The eyes of the country are on Newtown, and Connecticut, to finally step up and create reasonable laws which ban the assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition that have been the cause of heart-breaking tragedies in our community and others all over the country. Let the tragedy at Sandy Hook School be the final catastrophe that propels us to all say "No more."

The constitutional rights of all citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is being seriously impinged when we cannot send our kids to school or go the movies without a fear of being gunned down in mass numbers. The changes necessary to better protect us from harm can be made without infringing on anyone's second amendment rights. Please act on behalf of the best interest of all citizens and help us be an example to the rest of the country by passing this desperately needed legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.