

To the subcommittee on Gun Violence, Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety

I wish to express my support for the following:

- Universal background checks for firearms sales
- Banning large-capacity magazine clips (more than 10 rounds)
- A better assault weapons ban
- Expanding permit requirements in Connecticut beyond handguns to include rifles and shot guns
- Increasing penalties for storage of firearms or other safety violations that would allow minors or other prohibited person from acquiring such firearms
- A statewide registry of firearms to track changing ownership too.

In addition to taking further advice from gun manufacturers and first responders to emergencies, I hope you will also seek out thoughts from hospital emergency room personnel.

I attended a fraction of the January 28 public hearing in one of the overflow hearing rooms. I was particularly struck by the various fears of the many people objecting to further firearms legislation— fear of losing their right to recreational firearms, fear of personal attack, distrust of police and government.

I grew up near Chicago and spent a major part of my youth there. When I was nine years old, I once tried firing a handgun at a tin can under the supervision of the next-door neighbor, an FBI agent, together with my brothers and other kids. I had no desire to try it again.

In 1973, one of my friends was held up at gunpoint; he did not think about getting a gun then or ever. In 1975, one of my apartment mates was raped by a stranger who had broken in while the rest of us were away. Neither she nor any of our acquaintances thought about getting a gun. In 1982, on our second night moving to New Haven from Chicago, my husband and I awoke to find burglars in our bedroom trying to slide my husband's trousers out. They had already taken the good briefcase with all the notes he had prepared for his first year of teaching. They had removed the cast-iron grill from the back window in order to enter the apartment; the landlady regarded this incident as our failure to take responsibility for our own safety. We did not think to get a gun, but we did move out. Our daughters now both work in Manhattan and live in Brooklyn and Queens. They do not own guns. They do carry pepper spray—brand name unknown, but the slogan is "Making Grown Men Cry since 1975."

Bearing arms for personal protection is a choice, but it is not the only choice people have or the "natural" thing to do. The choice to bear arms does not require an environment that makes the massacre of children possible. We do not have to take away protection from the fearful.

Respectfully,

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