

Statement from Rebecca Cicarelli, Sandy Hook CT  
Submitted 1/30/13 for Hearing at Newtown High School

For too long, I have distanced myself from the issue of gun violence. This was someone else's problem, in someone else's town. Now I can say that it is everybody's problem. We own this, and we have the responsibility to address it.

I respect the rights of gun owners in our state and our nation. I'm okay with the fact that rifles are used for hunting, and regrettably, pistols are sometimes held in a home for the purposes of self-defense. But assault weapons? I think we can all agree that when our forefathers drafted the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment, they were speaking to muskets, not the madness we have today. I am asking you as a committee to push for:

- more comprehensive background checks for all firearm sales and transfers
- registration and annual renewal of permits with background checks
- restrictions on high capacity magazines (more than 7 rounds)
- owner liability for negligent storage of firearms

and ideally both a ban on weapons with military features and removal of those weapons currently held by private citizens.

Will this completely solve the problem? No. We also need to address mental health issues, and efforts to draft a plan to do so will be appreciated by all.

But on a big picture level, we need to really examine our national character. Unfortunately, this is something that the government cannot do for us. We, as individuals, need to come to terms with where we have come to be as a nation, and make a decision right now to be part of a sea change. Much of that will be done at home; with ourselves, our families, our children. It is the very least we can do as tribute to those who were so brutally taken from us on 12.14.