

Dear Sir or Madame,

I can't attend the Newtown meeting in person. However, I would like to state my opinions. I know that there are reasonable people who legally own guns, keep them safely, and use them responsibly. Nevertheless, I think that there is a lot we can do to reduce the epidemic levels of gun violence in this country and in this state. Just because the issues are complex and the opposition is powerful, I still want my government to work to make the future safer for everyone.

I think we should restrict the sale of "military style" weapons. I think we should limit the size of ammunition (so it can't be so lethal in one round). I think we should have much stronger limits on who can buy weapons (e.g. create a centralized system for background checks, close loopholes such as "gun shows"). While I strongly support patient privacy and encouraging people to seek mental health treatment; I think we should look at the connection between mental health and gun violence. We should also examine whether violence in entertainment should be curtailed. The experience of Australia in reducing gun violence can be instructive.

There may not be many easy or short-term solutions, but we have to start now in order to create a safer future.

Thank you,

Rebecca F. Lai
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