

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you today not only as a Newtown resident, Newtown Volunteer EMT, and Treadwell Lifeguard, but as a college student, a sorority girl, a student leader, sister, cousin, friend, and daughter. I have grown up fearing guns, violence, and hate. I have always believed that guns are unnecessary tools and that no person should have the ability to take the life of another. However, I never really cared about gun control laws. They didn't affect me; my family doesn't own guns nor do we want them. But now it does and now I care.

I am a junior at Miami University in Oxford, OH. Returning to school this spring semester I realized that, while I am not alone, I represent a very small margin of Miami students against guns. Rather than argue or debate with my peers, I chose to learn, to ask questions, and to maybe even adapt. After a very long, very interesting, and quite amazing discussion with one of my closest friends, born and raised in Dallas, Texas, I came to a conclusion, a conclusion that I'd like to propose to our lawmakers.

In Texas, people are raised around guns. My friend took her first gun safety class at age 9. Over the next 7 years, she continued to learn how to properly handle firearms, how to clean, load, unload, and disassemble them. By the time she was old enough to apply for a conceal-to-carry license, she could shoot 249/250 shots directly on target. Kids know guns. They see them in videogames, in the news, in movies, and in TV shows. I propose we take this as an opportunity to reverse this desensitization. The media has glorified mankind's most dangerous weapons and substances. I propose that we make gun safety education a requirement just as we have made alcohol, drug, and sex education mandatory in our schools. I propose that in order to purchase a gun, you must first have a license, regardless of the location in which you make your purchase (gun shows, etc) and that all gun licenses cannot be obtained without the successful completion of a safety and proper use course, as is now required for a conceal to carry license. I propose that we hold our gun owners to the same standards as our car owners. In order to get your driver's license, you must be of a certain physical capacity, age, and ability. I propose logical measures to be implemented to guarantee my safety, my brother's safety, my family's safety.

Most importantly I propose the absolute and total ban of all assault weapons, including the semiautomatic kind used to kill my students, my campers, and my swimmers. By definition, assault is a crime, so why should anyone be entitled, be allowed, a weapon that allows them to commit such an act?

Sincerely, Passionately, and with Strength,  
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