

Good Afternoon Task Force Committee Members.

Thank you for including my testimony today. My name is Sara Nuland and I live in Fairfield, Connecticut with my husband and two children ages 3 and 5.

I am writing to you to urge you to act strongly, quickly and bravely in addressing the issue of gun violence in our state.

Like all of us, I was horrified by the nightmare that occurred in Newtown on December 14th. For many years I have felt that we needed stronger gun laws in our nation and I have been proud to be a citizen of a state that has been close to the forefront on issues like gun control. Which is one of the reasons I was so shocked that such a tragedy could happen here. But as I began to look at our laws I began to see how we, collectively, have allowed such a tragedy to happen. I truly feel that although we have tried to strengthen our gun control laws, we have fallen short. We have allowed weapons into the hands of private citizens that have no use other than the battlefield. We have neglected to pass any laws regarding ammunition and have grandfathered in weapons that the legislature knew ought to be restricted. And in return what did we get? My children have yet to enter elementary school, but I have learned that in the elementary schools today lockdown drills and emergency drills that go far beyond fire drills are common. So in return for allowing those who feel the need to be armed like a militia we have traded in security and safety and taught our children from their very earliest school days that the world is dangerous and threatening. And in Newtown, where they did everything right, did everything they could have, it failed. Armed guards or worse armed teachers wouldn't have stopped it. But you can.

We sit now at a very unique crossroads. Right now you have the power to change the future not only for our children, but for all of us. I have read DC v Heller. I have read the dissent. I know that while that Court created new law in finding an individual right to bear arms, even they were prepared and expected that right to be restricted in the public sphere, as are all our rights under the Bill of Rights. I urge you, I beg you. On behalf of my children, all our children, all of us. Take action now. Provide the leadership Connecticut and the nation needs and pass strong gun control now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sara Nuland