

Dear Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

On December 14th, we lost our future, our innocence: twenty innocents and six courageous adults perished, forever stripping our community, state, and nation of their unique talents and gifts. We have heard, and will continue to hear and debate, the complex issues that have brought us to this heartbreaking juncture. But a simple truth remains: if we love our children, and I know that we do, we cannot continue on the current path of destruction that our nation has espoused. There must be change.

I believe it is possible to have responsible gun ownership. In fact, it is critical. How?

- Require thorough and consistent backgrounds checks for the transfer or sale of any gun, every time, including in-state private parties
- Require an accounting of every gun
- Require training to own and use guns
- Require assault weapons only be available to law enforcement and the military
- Ban high capacity magazines to the general public
- Initiate fair and balanced research on the factors that contribute to gun violence

Please put into place laws that will make these common sense directives a reality. The status quo is no longer an option.

Sincerely,
Silvia Harper, Sandy Hook resident