

To: ASaferConnecticut  
From: Susan Bard  
Subject: Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Testimony  
Sent: Tue Jan 29 19:35:26 2013  
Importance: Normal

January 29, 2013

Dear Legislators,

PLEASE TAKE ACTION TODAY TO STOP PREVENTABLE GUN DEATHS AND INJURIES! I have been searching for the answers to some questions since the massacre of innocent victims in my neighboring town of Newtown: Why do gun owners need high ammunition assault weapons and why are they still legal? Surely is it not for hunting?!! So I ask you today, why are they still legal? What are you going to do about it?

As we have heard at the CT legislative hearings so far, I can only guess that the gun rights advocates are holding on to their deadly assault weapons because they worry if they "give an inch, we will take a yard"? If we restrict assault weapons, will we keep trying for more restrictions?

When we continue to be failing so atrociously as a nation with continual loss of life within our control, we continue to be both a grieving nation and a worldwide embarrassment! If there are guns in the numbers we have on the streets American, then there will continue to be loss of life. It is very simple!

Again I ask, why do we allow the sale of deadly assault weapons? If we do not do universal background checks and do not do a better job at stopping the illegal trade of firearms, there will continue to be blood on the hands of our government!

That said, I can understand the value of the 2nd Amendment in principle. Although I wish it were not necessary personally for there to be guns on the streets. From a historical perspective, it makes sense how it came into being. But we do not, nor did we ever intend to give our citizens every weapon that our military possesses as a means of civilian protection. We do not need this today! Purchasing and making bombs is illegal under Federal and many states' laws. Why are assault weapons still legal? Given the damage they can do (and have done so tragically), why do we still allow people to keep and bears these unnecessary weapons?

As Americans, we have updated our laws to meet the times over and over

throughout our history. We don't need to look far to find examples of this with women's rights, the rights of Blacks, abolishment of slavery to name a few. Perhaps assault weapon comparables made sense when the 2nd amendment came into being. But it has NO PLACE in our society today. With the use of these weapons repeatedly to efficiently kill innocent people, I ask you again, what use are high-capacity assault weapons to our citizens?

Our legislators need to do the right thing here! I am not only speaking as a Mother, or simply as an educated person who happens to live in a bordering town to Newtown. I come to you today, our legislators, as a US citizen who believes our laws need to make sense in today's world. To plead. I have yet to hear of a single reason WHY anyone needs a high-capacity assault weapon!

I implore you to make deadly, high-capacity assault weapons illegal.

I implore you to put in place a system for universal background checks to assure that those who want to purchase are not criminals.

I implore you to safeguard our children and innocent victims from another massacre by making it law to lock up guns.

I implore you to stop this nonsense now. NOW.

We will stand strong until these changes are made. We will vote for elected officials who "do the right thing" in 2013 to make our world a safer place. Now. Today. Here. Bring pride back to the citizens of Connecticut and of the United States. Our neighbors in New York State on the path. Please join them. This is the moment to make these changes!

It is up to YOU.

Thank you,

Susan Bard, Redding CT