

Honorable Committee Chairs and Members of the Task Force Committee:

I plan on attending the hearing tonight at Newtown High School and am sending, below, my written testimony. I do not plan on entering the lottery to speak at the hearing, but do ask that you read and seriously consider my written testimony.

My name is Susan Kassirer and I reside at 6 Still Hill Road in Sandy Hook, CT.

I am writing today to urge you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence. It is a moral imperative that the state of Connecticut, in the wake of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, act now and pass this sensible legislation. If not now, when? The rest of the country is expectantly watching. This comprehensive package of gun violence prevention measures will be a model for the nation and will go a long way towards keeping our children and communities safe.

We have reached the tipping point on this issue, and people like me throughout the country are counting on Connecticut to get rid of powerful assault weapons and the high capacity magazines that feed them. The time is now to think first of the

safety of the public. We expect no less than the strongest gun safety measures in the nation.

My husband and I live in Sandy Hook, 3.2 miles from where the December 14, 2012 massacre occurred. We are parents, and cannot even imagine what the parents of the victims are going through. This tragedy should never have happened, and it would not have if the high capacity Bushmaster AR-15 assault-type weapon used by the gunman were not permitted in civilian society. Modeled on the AR-16 military-style weapon, these weapons have no place in a civilized developed country such as ours. Twenty 6-7 year old children were brutally massacred. Is this the kind of society we want to live in?

I thoroughly support the legislation proposed by CT Against Gun Violence. It will not keep law-abiding citizens from owning firearms. There is no question that this legislation will make us safer. Why should the safety—the very lives— of innocent children take second seat to the interests of gun manufacturers?

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Most sincerely and with highest respect,

Susan Kassirer