

My name is Tara Donnelly. It was this week 8 years ago that I lost both my mother and father to gun violence. Similar to most guns in this country, the gun that killed my mom and dad was legally purchased and owned. It was then stolen from a home by a heroin addict who used this weapon to shoot and kill my parents, Tim and Kim Donnelly, during a robbery of their Fairfield, CT jewelry store.

Perhaps one of the greatest qualities of this country is the continual reconfiguration to meet society's needs. After viewing photographs of the 9 combined bullet wounds that killed my mom and dad, after watching the events of Newtown with the same anger and heartbreak felt by our whole country, I am certain that right now, society needs us. As country, we have proven on a daily basis that the laws currently in place are clearly not enough.

We owe it to ourselves to take steps to prevent guns, even legally obtained guns, from being used against innocent people. No one should suffer the violence that claimed my parents' lives. No more families should endure the pain my family is left with. No one should live in the fear caused by the current reality of our country. I ask the legislature to listen carefully to all of the testimony and to consider all options. Lives literally depend on this.

Thank you,

Tara Donnelly

Sent from my iPhone