

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Members,

My family lives in Redding Connecticut and although I am currently out of state I feel deeply connected to my town and my home state. My sister works in Newtown and I have visited there often. As a child I enjoyed learning how to shoot pistols and a rifle and so I am not an ivory-tower anti-gun person.

However, I am deeply concerned about the issue of gun violence in Connecticut and in our whole country and am a very strong supporter of responsible, sane gun violence policies that are long overdue.

It is a shame that it has taken the unspeakable tragedy in Newtown to finally mobilize action, and I join with fellow Connecticut citizens in saying "NO MORE!"

I am writing to strongly urge the task force to:

- 1 Strengthen the assault weapons ban by requiring that all weapons having military features that are not manufactured for military use be banned from being manufactured, sold, owned or traded in Connecticut, and that existing weapons defined as assault weapons not in the possession of active full-time members of the armed forces be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement or removed from the state.
- 2 Ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds and that existing magazines of more than 7 rounds be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state. New York State has just adopted law that established the 7-round limit.
- 3 Require permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns, without exception.
- 4 Require registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require an annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned; require that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person; require safety inspection every three years.
- 5 Make gun owners legally liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. The violation would be a Class D felony.
- 6 Ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet.
- 7 Tax ammunition sales and require a license/permit to purchase any gun or ammunition.

8 Restrict handgun sales to one gun/month.

9 Mandate that a policy be established whereby the Connecticut State Police purchase firearms and ammunition only from manufacturers and suppliers who have shown tangible, substantial and documented cooperation with President Obama's proposed policies for limiting the manufacture, sale and possession of assault-style weapons and large-capacity magazines. Put economic pressure on the manufacturers to cooperate with the public demand for sensible regulation of gun use and manufacture.

Please take every step you can to make our state safer for our children, our families and our communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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