

The rights to protect children should be above the rights to own any type of gun. We need changes in the gun laws. We need to strengthen the current laws not only in Connecticut but also throughout the United States. It shouldn't be harder to adopt a dog than own a gun. Guns were made for one purpose only. One purpose.

I want the changes to be sensible and to protect all including gun owners.
I think the right to own a gun should come with the responsibility it entails.

Register a gun, just like we do with cars.

Insure the gun with liability insurance, just like we do with cars.

Track sales of guns, just like we do with cars.

Learn to use a gun safely before you can actually use a gun, just like we do with cars.

Require safe storage for all guns.

Require background checks for all gun sales and all ammunition sales.

Limit the purchase in number of guns per month to weed out those wishing to traffic or make illegal sales.

Strengthen laws for those that traffic weapons.

Tax guns just like we do other property.

Tax ammunition just like we do any sales of any thing in our state.

Stop listening to the gun lobbies. Responsible gun owners want to know that other gun owners are safe, sane and have to do the same things to ensure the safety of all just as they do.

Don't get caught up in the noise of video games being a culprit (Japan who has barely any gun violence has way more teens playing video games than teens in the US) or JUST mental health.

Yes, we need mental health

The morning of December 14, 2012 I was walking with my friend and my dog when my brother from California texted me asking if I knew Sandy Hook Elementary School and how far away was it. Yes, I knew it, my best friend's children were there up until a few months ago before they moved to California. He said there was a shooting and it didn't look good. My friend and I then scoured our iphones for news. We were told there were possibly other shooters and a maroon/purple van headed toward Danbury-- we live in Redding the town west of Redding and possibly on the way to Danbury. After looking around us to ensure no van of that description was near, we called the schools to find out what they were doing. Quickly got home and turned on the TV to find out slowly the possible injury was over 20 shot with some children as fatalities. Even though earlier reports of the brother coming from NJ and the van, what mattered was that 20 children were killed, 6 school staff. At a school in the town 2 miles from my home. It could have been my children's school. But instead it was an acquaintance's son's school. I found out from a mutual friend that while she was in kick boxing, there was a phone call for our acquaintance... "phone, for me?" She collapsed to the floor before everyone around her knew what was going on. Her son ended up being not one of the children hiding in the closet or room with a teacher for hours or at someone's house. Her son was killed. Her 6 year old son. Six.

Another friend I found out was the aunt of another boy gunned down that day. He was also six years old.

My best friend who moved just months before... her daughter knew that her friend Jack was killed in the shooting by the bad guy that day, but because they moved to California, they decided to keep the details from her. Weeks after the shooting while her mom was doing dishes, "she came in the kitchen with eyes overflowing with tears. She hasn't, until now, known any names of the slain children except Jack Pinto. Apparently she came out of her room and CNN was showing the pictures again. She counted 10 friends that she knew well and asked "Why did so many of my friends have to die mommy? Why do people have these bad guns that kill people?" Then she fell into my arms and sobbed. And so did I." They were babies. They had their lives ahead of them. Don't they mean more than a few restrictions to gun ownership? Don't they mean more than the NRA?

Aren't you elected to protect their right to live?
Do it.

Thank you,
Vanessa Bronder Alward

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[Our kids common sense gun laws to remain safe.](#)