

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Members,

I am deeply concerned about the issue of gun violence in CT and wish to make known my strong advocacy for responsible, sane gun violence policies to thwart the wave of terror that we have most recently suffered in our State. I join with many other citizens in saying "NO MORE!", and would like to urge the task force to:

- 1 Strengthen the assault weapons ban by requiring that all weapons having military features be banned and that existing weapons defined as assault weapons 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.
- 4 Require registration of handguns with annual renewal. Require: 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 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.

I grew up in Brookfield, CT, which is a neighboring town of Newtown. The Newtown tragedy has reverberated across the nation, but also throughout the lives of my family and friends. I now call New York City my home, but I've always referred to Brookfield, and CT in general, as my home and have always dreamed of returning to raise a family of my own. As a New Yorker dealing with the aftermath of 9/11, Brookfield was a soothing, comforting place to be and I gained a new-found appreciation for its quiet, peaceful days and evenings where the street lights blink at 9pm. Something about "home" feels broken now and to think simple, common sense gun regulations, as outlined above, could have prevented this tragedy is all the more heartbreaking. Please let us not allow this to happen again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Manko