

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Members,

I am a parent in Newtown, a life-long resident of Connecticut, and am deeply concerned about the issue of gun violence in Connecticut 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. Simply banning new sales and transfers alone will not go far enough to protect the general public from unnecessarily powerful weapons.

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. If New York can do it, so can Connecticut!

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.

9 Prohibit firearm ownership in "at-risk" households: criminals (not just felonists) and mental health patients as directed by a physician. Physicians should be held liable for "flagging" an at-risk patient, someone who poses a risk to him or herself and to the general public.

10 Strengthen laws around youth use of firearms and hold parents responsible for misuse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victor Ellul