

I am a 14 year resident of Newtown, CT and a parent of three children.

I am writing to urge you to pass ALL the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun

Violence. I believe that this comprehensive package of gun violence prevention measures will be a model for the nation and will be a big step toward keeping our children and communities safe.

I do not own a gun and have never even touched a gun. I feel that I can live my life safely and comfortably without ever doing so. If I had a specific reason to fear for my life or my safety I would turn to law enforcement officials for help. I do not believe that guns are the answer to protecting myself or my family. (And needless to say, I have no interest in hunting with guns or any other weapons).

I recognize that there are many who DO want guns for protection. However, they do not need assault weapons or high capacity magazines for this purpose. Experts are agreed that the only reason for such weapons and ammunition is to kill many people in a short amount of time. They are designed for use in military combat, not self-defense or hunting.

Many gun advocates continue to argue that any type of gun safety legislation violates their Constitutional rights. They also discount proposed legislation as knee-jerk reaction to tragedy. Please do not let them bully the legislature or the public with this approach. It is the automatic opposition to gun laws of any kind that is the knee-jerk reaction. There is no reason for law abiding gun owners to fear reasonable safety measures. Many other activities are regulated because they are potentially dangerous; driving is a prime example. And there is nothing unconstitutional or illegal about the gun safety measures that are being proposed.

My children attended one of the other elementary schools in Newtown, not Sandy Hook. But I think that most would agree that every person in Newtown has been changed forever by the massacre on Dec. 14. The opinions that I express today are not new, I have always felt this way about guns and the need for gun laws. What IS new is my determination to try to get something done, to make my views known and join gun safety advocates and proponents of gun violence prevention in calling for meaningful change.

I support the proposals of CT Against Gun Violence and urge you to adopt all of them. Thank you for your time and your attention.