

I am unable to attend today's gun safety hearing so I am writing to share my views.

I am a resident of Newtown, CT. I have three children, all of whom have attended or are currently attending the Newtown public schools.

I support the proposal of Connecticut Against Gun Violence, which requires all assault weapons and ammunition magazines holding more than seven rounds to be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state. I also support the prohibition of all future sales of such weapons and magazines.

I know that you are hearing from gun advocates who oppose any effort to regulate assault weapons. NSSF President and CEO Steve Sanetti is quoted as suggesting that "restricting high-capacity magazines and assault weapons is itself an assault on a way of life." (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/01/24/national-shooting-sports-foundation-fights-gun-control-from-newtown.html>) The NSSF website describes such restrictions as "knee-jerk reaction legislation," which must be opposed. (<http://www.nssf.org/bulletpoints/view.cfm?Iyr=2013&Bissue=012113.htm>)

Please recognize these arguments for what they are: desperate and nonsensical. Outside of military combat, there is no reasonable "way of life" that needs assault weapons or high capacity magazines. Toughening laws in this area is not knee-jerk reaction, it is waking up to something that is long overdue.

Please resist the pressures of the gun lobbies and take steps now to stop gun violence.

Thank you.