

I am a resident of Stamford, and the mother of two young children. I am speaking up because I want laws that will make the purchase of assault weapons like the ones used recently in Newtown to be absolutely illegal, as well as all large capacity magazines. I also want more thorough background checks to be required.

This is a personal issue for me - not just because I fear for the safety of our children and for my own safety, but because I had a handgun death immediately impact my own life.

I had one sibling, a brilliant mathematician, but mentally ill older brother. He legally purchased a handgun, and took his own life - fortunately not the lives of anyone else. He did not slip through any cracks in our mental health care system. He was under the care of a psychiatrist, and had for many years had the best mental health care that money and Stanford University could provide. My brother had been institutionalized, and had a history of being treated for mental illness.

For these reasons, I want to see our state, and I hope our federal government stand up to the money and political muscle of the NRA and pass reasonable gun laws. I am not trying to take away anyone's 2nd amendment rights. I am fine with sportsmen owning rifles with which to shoot prey - just not ones that can so easily take the lives of so many people. These guns should only be available to our police and our military. Other countries have done it. We need to finally do it as well. Enough lives have been lost.