

Make Connecticut a Model for Gun Law
Public Hearing in Newtown, CT

January 30, 2113

Dear Members of the Task Force,

Thank you for coming to Newtown tonight. I attended the hearings on gun violence in Hartford on Monday. I found out firsthand the magnitude of the gun lobby as I sat surrounded by those wearing yellow stickers stating that they were responsible gun owners and many seemed to express that any restrictions on gun ownership are an affront to their Second amendment rights.

I heard thunderous boos for the police chief who asked for a ban on assault weaponry and armor piercing bullets and thunderous cheering for the CT gun manufacturing reps who offered no new ideas on the halt of gun violence.

Tonight I ask you what about my rights, the rights of my family and of the community to feel safe and secure and to be reasonably free from fear? What about our rights under the Constitution? Don't you all as elected representatives feel a responsibility to protect me and my family?

I know this is a complex problem but there is really simple place to start:

- Ban from Connecticut military type assault weapons and high capacity magazines.
- Make gun registration mandatory and charge a fee for each gun owned.
- Make insurance on each gun owned mandatory.
- Review and strengthen background check requirements and close loopholes.
- Provide stiff penalties for possession of illegal weapons.
- Initiate a task force specifically on hand gun violence in Connecticut's cities.

I ask all of you tonight to take the right course of action, maybe not the popular one. Please make the sacrifices of Newtown and every violent gun death across America count for something – make Connecticut gun law a model for the rest of the country.

Thank you again,

Sandra Norden
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