

I am writing to urge the state of CT to support the proposals advanced by CT Citizens Against Gun Violence (CAGV). I believe the common sense steps advocated by CAGV are necessary to prevent gun violence and safeguard public areas. We need to learn the lessons of Newtown and apply all available legal and financial remedies instead of allowing gun rights groups to politicize this tragedy to their own narrow self-interest.

As a registered CT voter and military veteran of the Persian Gulf, I fully agree with:

- Banning high capacity ammunition magazines
- Strengthening assault weapons ban (no grandfathering)
- Banning assault weapons in the state of CT, similar to the recent action in NYS (no grandfathering)
- Allowing police to enforcement this ban and prevent weapons from crossing state lines
- Universal background checks on all sales and transfers of firearms
- Annual registration of all weapons held in private hands

I also support the taxation of weapons and ammunition, as well as insurance requirements for gun owners. Gun owners need to be held responsible for their actions.

I find it unacceptable that a mother in CT was **legally** allowed to keep an arsenal in her home easily accessible by her son. I find it equally unacceptable that he was able to use a shooting range in this state. I demand greater restrictions on firearms owners and more accountability to prevent gun violence. I want law enforcement to be able to seize weapons from those who pose a threat to public safety. This is one of the lessons learned from Newtown.

Lastly I do not agree with arming teachers. The state of CT needs to provide money to fund a more visible police deterrent at our schools in order to keep our kids safe. The voice of teachers needs to be heard on the local level, not the loud voices of the gun fringe. Schools deserve the same level of protection our government buildings and officials enjoy at taxpayer expense. The answer to the tragedy of Newtown is not more guns, but more educational funds, balance between public safety and the right to bear arms, more gun owner accountability and better trained security in schools. Listen to our educators, the residents of Newtown, the mothers and fathers of CT, trained law enforcement and the first responders who saw the carnage at Newtown, not the loud minority of gun advocates. If it was up to the gun lobbyists, we would all have to turn back the clock, wear bandoliers and live in the lawless west. I ask the state Assembly, Senate and Governor to prevent that outcome.

Respectfully,

Scott Schweizer
Norwalk, CT