

Dear Members of the Task Force,

Thank you for doing this critical work for Newtown, our state and for our country.

I am here to testify as a mother of four children who have graduated from Sandy Hook Elementary School. I have lived in Sandy Hook for 13 years in a wonderful neighborhood. Regrettably, the shooter's home is in my neighborhood. We lost our neighbors, our friends of friends, our teachers, and our principal on that dreadful day. My heart is broken!

Since December 14<sup>th</sup>, I have not been able to stop thinking about the 26 lives lost and their families. My Facebook friends could tell you that I spend my days and nights reading everything I can about gun violence/gun control.

I have learned a few things:

1. Almost 8,000 people have been shot so far in January.
2. According to the recent John Hopkins' national survey, "A sizable 89 percent of all respondents, and 75 percent of those identified as NRA members, support universal background checks for gun sales"
3. "About 70 percent of respondents supported bans on military-style semiautomatic weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines"

The polls demonstrate that gun owners and non-gun owners are very much aligned in their support for strengthening the gun laws.

I believe the great divide exists between the gun lobby, the politicians who fear a downgrade in their ratings and the sensible gun owners & the people of this nation who don't have an amendment to be protected from gun violence.

The gun lobby and the politicians are not the only ones culpable for the epidemic of gun violence in this country. I am just as culpable. I have failed to take any type of action after witnessing Columbine, Virginia Tech, Tucson, Aurora and other mass shootings. I have never sent a letter, an e-mail or made a phone call to our representatives in the past. My inaction has allowed the gun lobby to continue with gun proliferation. I have not paid any attention to which politicians cater to them. I vow to change that because I am heartbroken. Inaction is unacceptable. On Monday, I heard many moms testify that they will become a single issue voter. We will be paying attention now!

After doing nonstop research since that dreadful day and talking to the people who have been fighting for gun control for a decade or longer, I support the following measures:

1. Ban on military style semi-automatic assault weapons
2. Limiting the capacity of the magazines to 7
3. Establishing a DMV for guns
4. Universal background checks on all gun sales
5. National registry of all guns
6. Limiting and tracking ammunition sales

You have a unique opportunity to show Newtown, our state, our nation and the world that you act by listening to the people more than the gun proliferation lobby. Please honor the 26 lives lost and have empathy for the families and our community by passing the most substantial sensible laws and lead this nation in an effort to change the culture of violence. Please do not let Sandy Hook be remembered for the tragedy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Po Murray

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