

Thank you for your time (Senator Looney, Representative Miner and) members of the Task Force Committee. My name is Miranda Pacchiana and I live in Sandy Hook. My husband and I have been residents of Newtown for twenty years and our three children all attended Sandy Hook School. I am here today because I feel that it is my obligation as a mother and a citizen of Connecticut to urge you to pass the legislation proposed by *Connecticut Against Gun Violence*. This includes: banning and removing weapons with military features as well as ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds, requiring permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, requiring registration of handguns with annual renewal, making gun owners liable for negligent storage in the case of someone gaining access to their firearms and injuring themselves or others, banning the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the internet, taxing ammunition sales and requiring a license or permit to purchase any gun or ammunition, and restricting handgun sales to one per month. Passing these laws will be a vital step toward creating safer communities across the state. The whole country is aware of the tragedy that happened here six weeks ago and they join us in our grief and in our tears over the children and teachers who were so violently gunned down in our quiet little school. There are tiers of a different kind too in Newtown, and I refer to the levels of pain with which we are stricken: the highest being the grieving families who lost their precious children and loved ones. Every level below them, including people who weren't connected with Sandy Hook School and did not know any victims, feels profoundly affected by this tragedy as citizens of this town and residents of a country where formerly unimaginable violence has become an everyday occurrence. Today, we all share a deep and lasting and grief which has rippled out to the rest of America and beyond. The constitutional rights of all citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is being seriously infringed upon when we cannot send our children to school without fearing that they might be shot. The changes necessary to better protect us from harm can be made without infringing on our guaranteed rights under the second amendment. Please act on behalf of the best interest of all citizens and help us be an example to the rest of the country by passing this desperately needed legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.