

March 11, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Republican
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
SD-B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senators Grassley, Blumenthal, and Murphy:

We are 32 family members of victims who were killed in the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 – innocent children and their educators responsibly going about their day.

No one can describe our pain and the brutal day-to-day emotions we suffer. No one can bring our loved ones back and no one from our community of Newtown, Connecticut will ever go back to “normal.”

In the midst of our anguish we have learned about the dangerous loopholes in our nation’s gun laws and we are compelled to speak out to save others from suffering what we have endured. We are writing today to express our deep conviction and support for the President’s plan to reduce gun violence in America.

Specifically we are asking members of Congress to:

- 1. Require a criminal background check for every gun sold in America that includes a review of all disqualifying records and meaningful record keeping for all sales – in the same manner that Federally licensed dealers are currently required;**
- 2. Ban military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines; and**
- 3. Make gun trafficking a federal crime, with real penalties for straw purchasers;**

The epidemic of injury and death from gun violence is a plague on America, especially since the toll it takes on our families is preventable. Our nation’s families deserve to be safe and free in their schools, movie theaters, workplaces and their homes. We ask Congress, in honor and memory of our loved ones, to support the measures that the President has put forward to help stem the epidemic of gun violence.

Our precious children and family members who were so brutally murdered on December 14th deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Jackie Barden, Mother of Daniel Barden

Mark Barden, Father of Daniel Barden

Neil Heslin, Father of Jesse Lewis

Veronique Pozner, Mother of Noah Pozner

Len Pozner, Father of Noah Pozner

Gilles Rousseau, Father of Lauren Rousseau

Teresa Rousseau, Mother of Lauren Rousseau

Andrew Rousseau, Brother of Lauren Rousseau

Matthew Rousseau, Brother of Lauren Rousseau

Suzanne Connors, Sister of Mary Sherlach

Jane Dougherty, Sister of Mary Sherlach

Joseph Greene, Brother of Mary Sherlach

Carlos Soto, Father of Victoria Soto

Donna Soto, Mother of Victoria Soto

Carlee Soto, Sister of Victoria Soto

Carlos M. Soto, Brother of Victoria Soto

Jillian Soto, Sister of Victoria Soto

Donald Fagan, Grandfather of Victoria Soto

Debra Cronk, Aunt and Godmother of Victoria Soto

Robert Cronk, Uncle of Victoria Soto

Dean Fagan, Uncle and Godfather of Victoria Soto

Denise Fagan, Aunt of Victoria Soto

Don Fagan, Uncle of Victoria Soto

Linda Fagan, Aunt of Victoria Soto

Alex Fagan, cousin of Victoria Soto

Brianne Cronk, cousin of Victoria Soto

Christopher Fagan, cousin of Victoria Soto

Donald Fagan, cousin of Victoria Soto

Douglas Fagan, cousin of Victoria Soto

Heather Cronk, cousin of Victoria Soto

Wesley Cronk, cousin of Victoria Soto

Zachary Fagan, cousin of Victoria Soto