



CT Against Gun Violence

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TALKING POINTS

1. Estimates are that there are 300 million guns owned in the U.S, far more than any other country. The country in second place is Yemen...at half the per capita rate of the U.S.
2. The gun industry has flooded the U.S. market with guns. Of course with that kind of availability, guns are inevitably going to get into the wrong hands. And when they do, the gun industry tells us that the only way we can defend ourselves against them now is to buy more guns.
3. So when will the aggressive marketing stop? At 600 million guns? A billion? Two billion? Do you really think this proliferation and ever increasing firepower and lethality will stop? Not until the people stand together and say, finally, "Enough is Enough!" We have reached the tipping point.
4. The conversation has been dominated by the NRA and the Gun Industry lobby. We need to change that conversation as has been done against the tobacco industry with quit smoking campaigns and the liquor industry by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. It's a matter of a cultural change.
5. Gun rights activists will say that the Constitution (The Second Amendment) guarantees them the right to keep and bear arms. The Supreme Court did affirm that the right was an individual, and not a collective (militia) right. But the Court also concluded that the right did not include "any gun, any time, in any place."
6. Large capacity ammunition magazine and assault weapons allow shooters to fire multiple rounds (30 and more commonly). They have been used in many mass shootings (see Violence Policy Center chart)
7. Do the math. If the Newtown killer had to reload after every six shots instead of 30, in conjunction with the rapid response of public safety personnel, there was a potential for five to 10 lives being saved. The changing of magazines could have created a precious opportunity for more kids to escape.
8. The Hartford Courant reported, "law enforcement officials think as many as a half-dozen kids escaped from Sandy Hook Elementary School when the shooter paused, either to reload or because his gun jammed."
9. Maybe target or sport shooters would have to reload more often. Is that inconvenience more important than the protection of innocent children?

10. Nobody but law enforcement and the military need high-capacity magazines.
11. If you are keeping a high-capacity clip in your home for self protection, unless you are invaded by an army, you are likely to hit targets you weren't aiming at.
12. According to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, a gun in the home is far more likely to be used against another member of the household than against an intruder.
13. Guns have no place in our schools, period. Having guns in our schools makes our schools more dangerous and our children less safe.
14. Which will make kids safer? Banning high-capacity ammo so a shooter can't kill dozens of kids in a few minutes, or adding more guns and more gunfire into chaotic situations?
15. But incredibly, some politicians are trying to bring guns into our elementary schools -- instead of passing common-sense proposals we know will work to prevent gun violence, like a strong ban on deadly assault weapons and a criminal background check for every gun sold.
16. Law enforcement opposes these proposals to arm teachers.
17. A letter from Australia: “We had two mass urban gun events here back in the 90’s. It took a conservative govt and a shocked nation to finally say enough. All assault weapons were banned and no gun can have a magazine of more than 2—so all automatic and semi-automatic guns were banned. Owners had six months to hand their guns in for which they were compensated for at market value. All the guns were munched and sent to the metal recyclers. In addition, you can only possess a gun if you have a clear reason for it like a farmer, or a member of a gun club. And hand guns are very tightly restricted. The buyback was paid for by a special levy on income tax (I think it was an extra 1 or 2% for two years). Australia hasn’t had another such event in 20 years. But probably more importantly, deaths by gunshot have gone way, way down.”

Additional resources:

One Pagers: Core messaging, talking points, and crucial facts:

<http://mediamattersaction.org/message/onepagers/201212180001>

Conservative Media Take Up Call To Arm Teachers:

<http://mediamatters.org/blog/2012/12/20/conservative-media-take-up-call-to-arm-teachers/191932>