

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 11:13:17 AM  
To: Maxine Grad  
Subject: Support sensible gun legislation

Rep. Grad--as a former constituent of yours (I live in Northfield), and as someone who has met you and found you a smart and thoughtful person (my partner Merry Shernock is better known to you), I suspect that we may be on the same page regarding the need for reasonable restrictions on the ownership of firearms.

I was very pleased to hear Governor Scott speak up for an open discussion of steps that can be taken to reduce the chance of mass shootings like the one last week in Florida, and the potential one in VT which was avoided by the warning given by the friend of the potential shooter. These horrific events are the most visible, but hardly the most deadly overall, of the toll taken by the millions of firearms in the hands of Americans. This morning, I joined a few hundred supporters of gun controls who gathered in front of the State House, assembled by GunSense VT. We heard from victims of gun violence, including moving statements from students at Montpelier, U-32 and other VT high schools. Their lack of a feeling of security in their own schools in their own communities is a stark reminder of the prevalence of this threat in all of our lives. I ask you to support the passage of 3 bills in particular, in addition to continuing to support vigorous discussion as Gov. Scott has pledged:

S. 6: consistent background checks before ALL gun sales (with a few reasonable exceptions).

H. 422: allowing immediate, temporary removal of guns from those credibly accused of domestic violence.

S. 221: allowing the right to possess guns for up to a year, with a court hearing, if law enforcement can show that this will remove a serious risk of harm.

All of these are reasonable actions that will increase safety of all people in Vermont, as well as reducing the number of guns which our state currently allows to be sold to "straw" buyers in other states. None of them will take guns away from the many responsible gun owners in Vermont, but will help to get them out of the hands of people who can be identified as special risks. Due process is built into all of them. This is an area in which Vermonters' reasonable attitudes to gun use can be strengthened and put into law, helping to protect the children and all citizens. I know that these will pass through the Judiciary Committee which you chair, and I hope you will support them.

Best wishes--

Tim Swartz

381 VT Rt. 12N

Northfield, VT 05663