

# The Telegraph

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## Nation's gun laws must be tightened

*Letter to the Editor*

### **Nation's gun laws must be tightened**

In a recent letter, David Hunt argued that gun-control laws not only do not save lives, but they actually cost lives (Dec. 20: "Gun bans haven't worked in Europe").

To prove his point, he cites a 40 percent rise in gun-related crimes in the two years following the 1997 gun ban in England.

A more meaningful metric would be to compare homicide rates in the United States to that of the United Kingdom. According to Wikipedia, in 2009, the U.S. had a firearm-related death rate of 10.2 as compared to 0.25 in the U.K. – a rate more than 40 times greater.

I recently wrote to U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte, asking her to support a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

She replied that, while she would support a review of the laws relating to how we deal with mental illness, she believed that "denying the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens will not change the behavior of those intent on using firearms to commit horrific crimes."

If deranged person is denied access to weapons capable of killing large numbers of people quickly, the harm he can inflict will be diminished.

Restricting the availability of assault guns, hollow-point bullets and high-capacity magazines is the least we can do to protect schoolchildren – and, for that matter, ordinary citizens – from these all-too-frequent murderous rampages.

I urge anyone who agrees to contact Ayotte and let her know that gun regulations need to be sensibly tightened.

Andrew Mazer  
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