

An exploration of the real consequences of the campaign

One real consequence of the Sandy Hook Promise campaign was that the Connecticut State legislature introduced into law a limit on ammunition sales. “We are under no illusion that making these changes will end gun violence or prevent all mass shootings,” said relatives of nine of the 26 victims of the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. “That, however, cannot be the test that determines whether America chooses to act or remain complacent. These measures will surely save many lives. And they will prevent other families from experiencing our grief.” Daniel Malloy the current Governor of Connecticut signed a gun bill which states:

- Current owners of magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds are allowed to keep them but they must register them with the state and forbids them from loading more than 10 rounds outside their homes or while at a gun range.
- It creates the nation’s first state-wide registry of people convicted of crimes involving the use of dangerous weapons
- It will require eligibility certificates for people purchasing rifles, shot guns and ammunition
- It will require background checks for all firearm sales and creates safety standards for school buildings

With Malloy’s signature Connecticut became the third state to pass a bill since the Sandy Hook Promise campaign started. Malloy said “We have come together in a way relatively few places in our nation have demonstrated the ability to do.”

A real consequence is that the Sandy Hook Promise campaign raised awareness about the issue of gun control. By speaking alongside Barack Obama on national television and creating Facebook pages this campaign has raised awareness of the issues around gun control. For some time after these events, gun control was one of the hot topics in the USA and legislation was considered at a state and federal level.

An exploration of the potential consequences of the campaign

One potential consequence of the Sandy Hook promise campaign is that the federal laws around gun control may be changed so that all states are required to follow similar rules. State level laws vary significantly in their form, content, and level of restriction. Forty-four states have a provision in their state constitutions similar to the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution meaning people have the right to bear arms. The exceptions are California, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, and New York. In California, which has the strictest gun regulation, all firearms sales, transfers, including private transactions and sales at gun shows, must go through a California licensed firearms dealer. If the Sandy Hook Promise continues with its momentum other states aside from Connecticut may follow and introduce stricter gun laws. This may influence the federal government to change the policy surrounding gun control as well.

Another potential consequence of the Sandy Hook Promise campaign is that nothing happens. The National Rifle Association is a dominant force in the USA and lobbies senators and the federal government to make sure the second amendment is acknowledged and left in place. They have tried hard to undermine all campaigns set out to change gun policy and their tactics with the Sandy Hook Promise were no different. After the Newton shootings the Sandy Hook Promise campaign once again tried to gain momentum for stricter gun laws. The NRA response was to repeat robocalls to Newton families. The calls stated that the second

amendment was a constitutional right and should not be tampered with. This organization have a lot of money, clout and wide reaching support and so the Sandy Hook Promise campaign's aims are unlikely to be met at all. 2