Honorable Members of the Appropriation Committee

My name is Debbie Catuccio and I am a resident of Goshen,CT.

I am writing in tentative favor of **SB. 307: An Act Providing Funding for the State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force**. Likewise, I am tentatively in favor of **SB. 5561: An Act Concerning Funding for the State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force.**

I have spent many hours at the State Legislative Office Building in recent weeks at hearings regarding numerous proposed bills which seem targeted at restricting the 2nd Amendment rights of lawful gun owners. As we all know, these numerous bills are said to be in response to the mass murder in Sandy Hook on Dec. 14, 2012. We all, as a civil society, suffered great loss that day. It goes without saying that the families of those murdered suffered the most grievous losses. However, the bills proposed to date seem punitive towards law-abiding citizens while offering no real measure of added safety or security of school children, which was the stated goal of Governor Malloy and the Legislature.

SB. 307 and SB. 5561 to fund in full the State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force will begin to focus attention back to where I believe we should have been focusing since Dec. 14th,criminal possession and trafficking of illegal firearms. Too often, these firearms end up in the hands of gang members who have held hostage and caused great pain in our urban areas. These are often areas occupied by the most vulnerable in our communities, the poor and the elderly. These people are trapped by the violence these gangs spew in their neighborhoods. Kids cannot play safely in their own front yards for fear of drive-by shootings or just stray bullets from rivaling gang members. If we are going to improve their quality of life, we need to focus far more attention on getting these illegal guns off the streets of our cities and prosecute those trafficking these illegal firearms.

To the extent the State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force would be the vehicle for removing these illegal firearms from our cities and streets, the task force should be fully funded and brought to full force. The only reason I indicate tentative support for SB 307 and SB 5561 is my concern that this task force might be utilized to bully or intimidate lawful gun owners, or used to enforce severely restrictive bills currently floating around the legislative process. If I could be assured the task force will be utilized to enforce against illegal gun activity by criminals, I would give these two bills my full support.