

Testimony for Public Hearing
Public Safety and Security Committee
March 14, 2013

Mr. Ed Southard
City of Meriden

Greetings, committee chair and committee members; my name is Ed Southard. I am here to voice my very strong opposition to every Senate and House Bill currently being considered except for Senate Bill 299 and House Bill 6162. The bills I oppose infringe upon the Second Amendment's guaranteed individual right to keep and bear arms and violate this state's very own Constitution, Article 1 Section 15, that states, "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

My fellow citizens, today I propose to you that the real enemy we face is pacifism. We have well-guarded government buildings, buildings guarded by trained individuals with firearms, but our schools remain defenseless. Our schools today are seen as high value targets, ripe for any criminal to take and destroy at will. No longer can we sacrifice our teachers and our children on the altar of pacifism. Police experts agree the best way to respond to an active shooter incident is with an immediate and violent response by an armed individual that is immediately present and willing to use deadly force to neutralize the threat within seconds rather than minutes thus reducing or eliminating innocent casualties. We need legislation that provides for this type of effective and decisive response to quickly neutralize any deadly threat to our children's lives. We do not need feel-good legislation that demonizes and segregates an entire group of law-abiding citizens. Good citizens who have only one desire, a desire to provide safety and security to their children and their families.

I ask you today to propose legislation that will provide funding to give any qualified citizen the exact same firearms training we give our police. We need legislation to create a program to train willing and competent people to defend our schools, to defend themselves and others, to stand and fight, not to lay down their bodies as shields but to heroically meet force with force. These useless Senate and House bills will provide as much protection to our children as the paper upon which they are printed. Proven time and again by President Obama's own government studies, they simply do not and will not work.

We need to respect an individual's inherent right to self-defense. We need to respect the sanctity of the Second Amendment. We need to respect the sanctity of our own state's constitution. These irrational proposals amount to nothing more than a poll-tax that violates every American's civil rights. To paraphrase the words of the late President John F. Kennedy: Let every politician here and elsewhere know, whether they support the Second Amendment or not, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, in order to assure the survival of the Second Amendment. We pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. For this, we shall fight. Thank you for your time.