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Madam or Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

I am Elias Davenport, a resident of Weatogue, Connecticut.

I am speaking today to voice my opposition to Senate Bills number 505, 1071, and 1076. I am also speaking in opposition to House Bills number 6162, 6252, and 6595. My comments today will relate specifically to Senate Bill 1076, *An Act Concerning the Reduction of Gun Violence*.

This legislation would restrict the rights of gun owners in Connecticut. Improving public safety and reducing violence is worth pursuing, but only if the proposed measures accomplish their purpose. Senate Bill 1076 cannot. Instead, it threatens a strict firearms ban and establishes obstructionist regulations. Gun owners are often accused of a lack of trust in the government. When official responses to tragedy affect the law-abiding more than the law-breaking, confidence does run low. Trust must be earned, and it must never be taken for granted.

The legislature could begin building trust by seeking a better knowledge of firearms. The new assault weapons ban in Senate Bill 1076 demonstrates that its drafters are not familiar with their subject. It attacks weapons common in civilian use but rare in criminal hands and bans vague categories of firearms by their appearance and accessories. The ban will accomplish little but the exasperation of Connecticut's gun owners. The features listed as "assault weapon" features do not increase a weapon's lethality nor do they disqualify one for civilian use. They are nothing more than ergonomic improvements or cosmetic accessories.

Further, the firearms registration and rifle permit requirements in Senate Bill 1076 create both an affront to personal privacy and a blatant case of obstructionism. No provision in the registration requirement will improve public safety. Instead, it will place massive new burdens on law enforcement, and give the government unnecessary knowledge. Throughout world history, firearms registration has often been the prelude to confiscation or further controls. While Connecticut's current government may not intend to outlaw possession of firearms, a government may arise in the future with different goals. We must act now to preserve tomorrow's freedoms.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and thank you for your service to Connecticut.

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