

To: Members of the Connecticut legislature's Public Safety Committee

From: Michael Costanza (13 Bayberry Lane, Lisbon, CT, 06351)

Regarding: Public hearing of March 14, 2013, on the bills SB 1076, SB 505, SB 506, SB 897, SB 6162, and HB 6251, among others.

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As a resident and public school teacher in Connecticut, I ask the committee members to oppose the bills noted above and to vote down the gun-control measures they contain. Making it more difficult or more expensive for law-abiding citizens to protect their families responsibly with firearms, as these bills would do, will do nothing to make us safer in our homes, on our streets, or in our schools. In fact, these measures would do the exact opposite. We've seen time and time again in recent decades that gun-control schemes have not reduced crime and death rates, and in fact, that citizens are safer in states and municipalities that honor the right to carry and the right to self-defense. Expanded background checks, gun registration schemes, ammunition capacity limits, or expanding the list of prohibited firearms would not have prevented the Newtown tragedy that has left schools like mine searching for answers. Unfortunately, these answers will not come easy, but trampling the right to bear arms guaranteed to us in the United States and Connecticut constitutions will only do more harm at the same time as it undermines our most basic liberties. Our time would be better spent making our schools more secure.

Thank you for your time.