

Honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee
My name is Pablo Soto, I'm a resident of Meriden.

I come before this committee today in Reference: SB1076, SB505, SB506, SB897, SB1071, HB6162, HB6251, HB6598 to oppose all measures of gun control that would limit our ability to obtain firearm, ammunitions, high capacity magazine, I also oppose legislation that would impose excessive, unfair, capricious and burdensome taxes, tariffs or fees on the purchase of firearm, ammunition, magazine, firearm parts and accessories and the requirement of firearm registration.

Chicago violent crime rate is 28,402; Connecticut violent crime was 9,767 in 2012, only 18,635 less than Chicago.

Chicago, having the strictest gun control laws in the nation, have been unable to curve the violence there, in fact there were 42 homicides in the first month of this year alone, just this week an infant was shot 6 times while having her diaper change in the front seat of a vehicle, how can you explain to Connecticut residents that placing more restrictive gun laws is going to curve the violence if a city such as Chicago with the strictest gun laws in the nation has been unsuccessful in doing so.

Is this what you want, an increase in home invasions, an increase in rapes, an increase robbery, an increase in bloodshed on the streets of Connecticut? What will you tell the people of Connecticut when the crime rate goes as a result of these bills? When you disarm a law abiding resident you leave that person vulnerable against an arm assailant, you are placing that person at risk of becoming another victim and another statistic.

We have a right, responsibility and obligation to protect ourselves, our family and our property, and to not rely on someone else, including police officers, they're a reactive force more a preventative force and are not our personal security service, and they are not there to provide individual protection 24/7 against a criminal threat. We want to have the necessary tools to meet those threats should they arise. There is an old saying, I rather have it and not need it, then need it and not have it.

I'll leave you with a few examples how gun saves lives, family and possessions.

June 30, 2001

In Fairfield, CT a couple returning home in the evening were rushed by 2 armed men. After a struggle the owner retrieved a gun and fired at the intruders: The suspects ran away.

Waterbury Republican-American

What would the outcome have been if the owner was not able to retrieve a firearm?

November 18, 2005

Angel Benitez took a self-defense class and obtained a pistol permit after an armed burglar stole \$100 from his home. He indicated that he was going to prepare himself. Time passed and according to police Mr. Benetiz heard the screams of his friend Carmen Ramos. When he went to check he saw a man pointing a gun at her, where he drew his firearm and fired. Ramos daughter was watching television at the time.

Hartford Courant

What do you think could have been the outcome if Mr. Benetiz did not show up at the aid of his friend, rape, murder?

May 5, 2002

Three masked men, entered the home of 77 year-old Edward Gustavson, tied him up and ransack his home. Mr. Gustavson was able to free himself and ran up the stairs being chase by the burglars, he reached for his revolver and shot one of the intruders after a struggle and another shot the intruders fled the home. Stg. Paul Vance, stated he was very fortunate and that he guts.

Hartford Courant

What do you think the outcome could have been for this elderly gentleman?

Are you ready to see an increase in violent crime on the streets of Connecticut cities?