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Public Safety & Security Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2C
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Members:

As an American, a life-long Connecticut resident, a tax payer, a law-abiding citizen and a gun owner I strongly **oppose** the most recent actions that will limit, penalize or infringe the rights of the law-abiding gun owner in this state.

Specifically the bills being heard at this public hearing today as listed:

SB-299, SB-505, SB-506, SB-710, SB-897, SB-1071, HB-6162, HB-6251, HB-6595, HB-6595 and the especially draconian **SB-1076**.

Initially, I was perplexed as to why a contingent of Connecticut legislators has chosen to assault the liberties of the law-abiding citizen due to the action of a deranged individual. Appalled at the murder of innocents, I remained calm and analytical, studying the available facts of the event, studied the onslaught of emotional bill proposals, attended town hall meetings, listened to the perspectives of our esteemed representatives and even have endured the diatribes of our honorable governor.

I've come to the determination that the legislative leadership has chosen a path of least resistance towards legislative gratification.

The proposed legislation is nothing more than an attempt to control, coerce and manipulate the law-abiding citizen with unenforceable impotent laws that do nothing to reduce gun violence or violent crime. It is the easy comfortable path that allows this legislative body to declare to the nation we've done something on paper knowing the potential real-life outcome at best will be a net zero effect in reducing crime – or at worst initiate a Chicago-like crime spree in our state. To legislate that the general public does not have the same ability to protect itself in the same manner, using the same tools, as local government agencies when facing the exact same criminal threat is unreasonable. Opponents state that there must be some common ground – this is not it. To state that these proposed laws will provide for increased public safety is fallacious and that, in actuality, the opposite is true when strict gun laws are enacted. The more likely scenario, as proven in Washington D.C, Chicago, Detroit and other metropolitan areas adopting similar legislation, will be a potential increase in the public's exposure to violent crime.

To address the root causes of gun violence in the State of Connecticut, this body would have to take the hard road by recognizing the following:

- Admit that mental health issues were primarily at the root cause of the Newtown tragedy.
- Admit that a "gun-free" zone is ineffective.
- Acknowledge that our mental health system has been rendered impotent.
- Effectively deal with violent crime throughout our state by demanding enforcement of existing laws.
- Acknowledge that government can't guarantee personal safety.
- Acknowledge that a plausible solution can't be ascertained until all the facts of the Newtown tragedy are brought to bear via release of the CT State Police report.

Presenting effective legislation to deal with the mental illness system would be unpopular to an ideology that has worked decades to dismantle and dealing with violent crime would force this legislation to ultimately deal with funding its prevention. If the same effort given to anti-gun legislation were given to the state budget, it could be feasible to suggest our current fiscal house would be in order.

Alas, our priorities are skewed and the law-abiding gun owners of this state are the low-hanging fruit.

You will hear plenty of testimony today citing FBI statistics and facts regarding violent crime rates, the overall reduction of those rates in the past decades despite the promulgation of legal firearms and I will defer the presentation of those facts to my compatriots.

I strongly urge you to evaluate these facts when considering your vote on this legislation.

My testimony today, my continued perseverance in insuring I and others remain informed of the actions of this legislative body and my continued activism in securing the future defeat of all Connecticut politicians who support this type of unconstitutional legislation are proof that I am determined to blockade the easy road for this legislative body.

I and many more like me are awakening to the uncontrolled usurpation of power by our elected representatives and your recent actions have motivated the law-abiding citizens of this state. These actions continue to feed the ever growing solidarity of constituents who take responsibility for their own protection and it continues to foment public resentment derived by government intrusion into our guaranteed liberties.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my perspective to this committee, appreciate the efforts of our state legislators and am hopeful that a sensible conclusion is eminent.

Thank you
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