

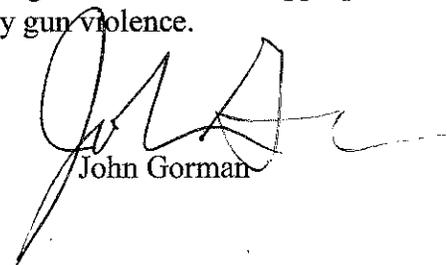
My name is John Gorman and I am a resident of Waterbury, CT. I am a member of the Greater Waterbury Community Committee for Gun Safety, a grass roots organization formed following the tragedy on December 14, 2012. I am here to advocate for the adoption of each of the eleven bills listed on the agenda for this public hearing.

Raised Senate Bill 1076, An Act Concerning the Reduction of Gun Violence, is the cornerstone of these legislative proposals. I urge you to adopt this bill in its entirety. In particular, the provisions of this bill requiring the registration of each firearm owned or possessed by individuals would no doubt be of vital importance to the enforcement of gun trafficking laws. Such a registry establishes a documented baseline of firearm ownership for use by law enforcement only. This tool can only augment the ability of law enforcement to apprehend and prosecute those illegally selling guns to individuals who would otherwise be prohibited from possessing a firearm. This registry would not be subject to public disclosure and therefore would not unlawfully infringe upon gun owners' rights.

Raised Senate Bill 1076 also bans the sale of “assault weapons” and expands the definition of “assault weapons” to include any semiautomatic, centerline rifle and any semiautomatic pistol that have only one military feature. It further expands the definition of “assault weapons” to include any semiautomatic, centerline rifle and any semiautomatic pistol with a fixed magazine that has the capacity to accept more than ten rounds. I favor such prohibitions and urge their adoption into law. An AR-15 semiautomatic rifle is capable of firing forty-five rounds in one minute. I submit that there is no constitutional right to own an “assault weapon” or to own a high-capacity magazine.

The January 28, 2013 issue of Time Magazine ran an article on this pending gun control debate. This article addressed the shooting of former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords by gunman Jared Loughner. The criminal records of this shooting indicate that Loughner was armed with high-capacity magazines of thirty-three bullets. After expending the first thirty-three rounds, Loughner was tackled by bystanders as he was attempting to reload his gun. The records indicate that nine-year-old Christina-Taylor Green was shot and killed sometime after bullet No. 12. If Loughner didn't have access to a high-capacity magazine, there would be less people dead.

Raised Bill 1071 An Act Concerning Additional Funding for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund imposes a tax of \$10.00 on firearm manufacturers and importers on each firearm sold in or imported into Connecticut. The money from this tax will be directed to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund to help alleviate the financial burdens of those victimized by gun violence. The bill provides manufacturers and importers the right to appeal any disputed tax assessments to Superior Court and therefore protects their due process rights. I favor this legislation as it is an appropriate exercise of the taxing authority in light of the damage inflicted by gun violence.



John Gorman

SUPPORT GUN SAFETY REFORMS

The Bushmaster .223 caliber rifle used by the Newtown shooter is a legal firearm under the current CT assault weapons ban. The 30-clip high capacity magazines that he used to discharge his ammunition are also legal under current CT law. We must take steps to make our society safer and reasonable gun safety laws that are consistent with gun owners' constitutional rights are part of that equation. The Greater Waterbury Community Committee For Gun Safety is a group of concerned citizens advocating the adoption of reasonable gun safety laws designed to make our society a safer place.

We the undersigned citizens of the State of Connecticut hereby petition our State Representatives and State Senators for the adoption of the following common sense gun safety reforms:

- **Make Background Checks Universal and Comprehensive Prior to the Transfer of Any Firearm in Any Circumstance**
- **Ban Large Capacity Magazines That Hold More Than Ten Rounds**
- **Strengthen the Assault Weapons Ban to Define "Assault Weapon" as any Semiautomatic Weapon that has One Military Feature**
- **Promote Safer Gun Storage**
- **Improve Enforcement of Existing Laws by Requiring Gun Permit Holders, Firearm Safety Instructors and Employees of Gun Retailers to Alert Police of Unlawful Behavior Involving a Firearm**

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Support Our Gun Safety Reforms

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