

Testimony, Public Safety and Security Committee public hearing, March 14, 2013

I cannot attend today's hearing in person, but I want you to know that I support strengthening our laws with regard to gun safety.

I have been personally threatened or harmed by a gun several times in my life. In high school I had an abusive boyfriend who told me he had a gun and from time to time threatened to use it to kill himself, me, or others. In my 20s my then-husband pointed a double-barreled shotgun at me as a "joke"; we got divorced not long after that. On a Sunday afternoon about 20 years ago, I was riding in a friend's car in the Bull's Head neighborhood of Stamford when the car's rear window was suddenly shot out by a stray bullet. In 2006 I was mowing my front lawn in Norwalk and someone shot me in the leg from a passing car; luckily I was not seriously injured.

These experiences underscore the fact that guns are too easily available. People who use guns to threaten others or who shoot guns in populated areas should not have guns.

The 2nd amendment does not, and should not be construed to, supersede citizens' right to live in peace and safety. We have laws to regulate the ownership and operation of motor vehicles. Our laws regulating the ownership and use of firearms should be no less stringent than those for motor vehicles.

Thank you for receiving my testimony.

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