

Dear Committee Members

I regret that I could not testify in person today at the public hearing. I am writing because I am concerned citizen of the state of CT. I believe in the 2nd amendment. I believe that most gun owners are responsible people. I believe that people who wish to own guns should have the option to do so- provided certain conditions:

Citizens SHOULD NOT be allowed to purchase weapons that have more than 1 military style feature (such weapons should be reserved for those who actually NEED them- law enforcement officials and military).

Citizens should not be able to access and purchase high capacity ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

There should be mandatory background checks required of all gun owners and a universal system should be enlisted that keeps guns out of the hands of people with criminal background histories and diagnosed mental illness.

Here is where I am coming from- I am a mother of 2 small children. I am a former teacher and a current therapist. I have devoted my career to helping improve the mental health system in this country. I have worked for the past 5 years at Natchaug Hospital on the inpatient unit of the hospital. I work with a team of devoted individuals to provide care to sickest people afflicted by mental illness in this state. Every day I am there I see people who are both suicidal and homicidal. And every day I worry that another one of my former patients will be in the headlines due to a horrific act that they committed as a result of their disease, at the hands of a weapon that has the ability to kill people with very little effort.

I believe that more needs to be done in the mental health system for sure. But I also believe that we need to make these weapons of mass destruction a lot harder for these people to access. That is our part- that is what we can do to improve this situation in our nation that seems to be getting worse by the day.

Thank you for your tireless effort on this issue, and your consideration of my plea.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen of Connecticut

Hannah Dunnack-Jackson

West Hartford, CT