

Public Hearing Public Safety and Security Committee March 14, 2013

Jerri MacMillian - Essex

Oppose all bills that restrict the right to keep and bear arms

My testimony is personal but my concerns are universal.

I was baptized into the Catholic faith and when I asked my mother if I could attend church with my other grandparents, who were Episcopalians, I got permission if I attended mass first. I really don't know how the church would rule on this, but if that's what Mom wanted – well, OK.

So, I walked the 8 blocks (half a mile) to and from the Catholic church Sunday mornings by myself. I don't remember how many times I made this journey before the Sunday that 2 fellows, who had sat behind me during mass, followed me as I was going home and attacked me.

The takeaway for this hearing is two-fold:

I learned, at the age of 9, that I am my own first responder. There were no people around to come to my aid. I was on my own.

The second takeaway is that, while my attackers saw a little girl on her own, they didn't know what defenses I might bring to the incident. (No, I wasn't carrying a pistol that day!) They didn't know that I have 5 brothers and sisters and that we did not settle our differences through rational discussion. They didn't know that St Francis has been on permanent retainer for my personal protection!

I squirmed and kicked my way free and then, with wings under my feet, left my attackers in the dust.

I have a permit to carry and I am trained and prepared to protect myself. I do not want to ever have to use my pistol in self-defense. But, I want to be able to.

I was asked just the other day if I was carrying. I want any would-be attacker to have to take that possibility into account.

The proposed legislation puts so many restrictions and costs between me and my right to own and carry a firearm that I believe anyone with criminal intent would be inclined to believe that the likelihood of armed resistance is small enough to risk it.

Please don't take my right to self-defense lightly.

Please don't, in the pursuit of 'making sure an awful thing doesn't happen again', put me and others at increased risk.