

I am a resident of West Hartford and am unable to attend the hearing at 10:00 am on March 14. Please accept this written testimony. As a citizen and as a friend of people deeply affected by the death of one of the children at Sandy Hook, I write to urge you to pass the strongest possible legislation related to gun violence. The proposed bills that I have heard about in the press don't do enough. We need a ban on military-style assault weapons, a ban on high capacity ammunition magazines, universal background checks, and other common sense ways to assure that gun purchasers and owners are responsible. It is remarkable to me that we, as a state and country, require more regulation and paperwork for automobiles and pet ownership than we do for deadly fire arms in the midst of a culture of violence. Although I believe the Second Amendment is about militias like the National Guard rather than individual rights to unlimited guns, even if we accept the arguments for 2nd Amendment protections of individuals, none of the proposals I mention threaten the rights of individual gun owners -they simply make reasonable distinctions between weapons and ask for reasonable steps to assure that guns don't land in the wrong hands. I presume most people, even avid gun rights defenders, agree that the 2nd Amendment does not guarantee the right to own a jet fighter, a tank, or a shoulder-held rocket grenade launcher. If we draw the line somewhere, then it is only a debate about exactly where to draw that line - I urge you to put assault weapons and high capacity magazines on the other side of that line. Thank you,

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