

Submitted to: Public Safety and Security Committee

Date: March 14, 2013

From: Paula S. Stabnick, West Hartford, CT

I am unable to testify today but want to submit the following:

Growing up in Northern Maine, most houses had guns, most families had hunters, and most of the boys in my high school belong to the NRA Club. Back then in the 80's, the club had no political agenda that was known to us, only that it taught gun safety after school. Fast forward a few decades, many millions, and several leaders later, and now somehow it's about assault weapons, large magazine clips and loss of civil rights. Now the NRA is about bullying.

They are overtly bullying our law makers and somehow it's working. You are the same legislators that passed bills concerning bullies in school and taking a stand on that kind of detrimental behavior. In some weird twist, you now have become "victim" to their intimidation. Let us be clear- this is *not* a second amendment issue, nor is not about concern over the "burden that law-abiding citizens" are going to have to bear because of background checks.

It's not about being "anti-gun" or infringing on someone's rights...it is about making intelligent decisions to keep our society safe. This legislation should not be a partisan issue- what is right and just shouldn't lean on party lines. Assault weapons have no place in our homes. You are not taking away someone's right to defend themselves. Magazine clips with more than 10 rounds belong in the military. If you are a hunter, or you are defending your home from an intruder and you can't hit your target after 10 shots, you shouldn't own a gun in the first place. This gun legislation is about reining in what has gone terribly awry. Please don't let the bullies with the deep pockets and threats influence common sense of what is right. Simply do what is right.