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Thank you for the chance to speak here today. I was appalled by the recent shooting here in Connecticut, having two beautiful grandchildren ages 4 and 6 myself I don't think I would be able to ever have joy again if anything happen to them.

But that is not why we are here today, is it?

We are here because you are, once again, attempting to take away our freedoms by passing more restrictive firearms laws that will limit our 2nd amendment rights. The law of this Republic which is the Constitution and the Bill of Rights say you do not have that right! We all know these laws will have no effect on crime or criminals, and will only effect those of us who obey the law.

Let's look at the thoughts of our founding fathers who created this great nation and system of government we have today.'

In the Declaration of Independence it states "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

There are five important words in this declaration. First, is **endowed**, to give or bequeath. Second, **Creator**, God, a deity responsible for the creation of the world, cosmos or universe. Third, **unalienable**, impossible to take away or give up. Fourth, **rights**, power or privileges to which one is justly entitled. and lastly **liberty**, a delicate area between the force of government and freewill of man. Liberty brings freedom of choice to work, trade, to go and live wherever and however we wish.

History has proven over and over that laws fail to prevent violence or crimes. Prohibition created organized crime in America. The decades old "War on Drugs has been a billion dollar failure, as criminals will and have obtained drugs and weapons regardless of the already 20,000 gun laws that already exist here in America. It is interesting that the states and cities with the strictest gun laws (California, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, to name a few) have the highest murder rates, and the states and cities with right to carry laws, have the lowest rates of murder and violence. "An armed society is a polite society". Just look at Switzerland.

Listen to Thomas Jefferson

“Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.”

What you are trying to do here once again is legislate morality and behavior by banning the tool that was used instead of looking for the root cause of all this violence. By passing more gun control laws you make yourself look good in the news and in the public's eye, but have done nothing to solve the real problems in our society. Shame on all of you for this bait and switch tactic. If you took the time to read the 2nd Amendment and why it was created there would be no need for discussion of gun control.

“A well regulated militia necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

Infringed as defined by Merriam Webster dictionary: To encroach upon in a way that violates law or rights of another, to wrongly limit or restrict something, such as another person's rights.

Noah Webster said and I quote: “Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom of Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States.”

Instead you should be addressing the mental health care failures in this state. We could address how our elected leaders have seen fit to close mental health facilities and leave sick people out on the streets as a result of budget cuts. This has caused an overload of our prison system with people who should be in mental hospitals and not jails. But here you sit trying to overturn the Bill of rights and freedoms of the American people when the real issue is criminals and mental health not gun control.

In any discussion of the second amendment we have to talk about the uncomfortable topic of the state verses the people. The purpose of the 2nd amendment was for the people to be able to rise up against future tyrants. When you begin to infringe on our rights and pass unconstitutional laws, what are we to think? You are becoming the tyrants the constitution warns us against. You are putting us in a very precarious position because you feel threatened by gun owners and we feel threatened by the state. Your actions only escalate this conflict which is proven by recent runaway gun and ammo sales. As a result of your unjust actions gun owners and 2nd amendment advocates are feeling backed into a corner.

Abraham Lincoln once said

“ We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.”

Our elected officials seem to have forgotten that “We the people, are the government! Not them!

John Adams, second president of the United States said

“ You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe.”

The following are quotes from 4 court cases further proving my point

“All laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void.”
Marbury vs. Madison 1803

An unconstitutional act is not law; it confers no rights; it imposes no duties; affords no protection; it creates no office; it is in legal contemplation, as inoperative as though it had never been passed.” Norton vs Shelby Country, 118 us 425 p. 442

The general rule is that an unconstitutional statute, though having the form and name of law, is in reality no law, but is wholly void , and ineffective for any purpose; since unconstitutionality dates from the time of its enactment and not merely from the date of the decision so branding it. “No one is bound to obey an unconstitutional law and no courts are bound to enforce it.” 16am Jur 2d, Sec 177; late 2d, Sec 256

“Where rights secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rule making or legislation which would abrogate (abolish) them.

Miranda vs. Arizona,
384 US. 436p, 491

“The constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government.”

Patrick Henry

The last 20 mass shootings were all in gun-free zones. How many mass shootings have we seen in gun stores loaded with guns? None, yet you blame the guns and gun owners instead of the criminals.

There are some here who say that God does not exist, so rights from him have no meaning. Our founding fathers knew there would be people like this so they also based our laws on Natural law. Natural laws are those rights such as life (from conception), Liberty, and the Pursuit of happiness; ex. freedom of Religion, Speech, Learning, Travel,

Self- Defense etc. Hence, laws and statutes which violate Natural Rights, though they have the color of the law, are not law but impostors!

The U.S. Constitution would be utterly worthless to restrain government legislators unless it was clearly understood that the people had the right to compel the government to keep within the Constitutional limits. That is why we have the 2nd Amendment, to defend against tyranny and compel our legislators to do their jobs within the law of the land, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. And if you do not, we have the physical power to throw you out and start over again.

“Where the people fear the government you have tyranny; where the government fears the people, you have Liberty.”
Thomas Jefferson

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance?”

Thomas Jefferson

So, in closing, the 2nd Amendment and all gun ownership was written into the Bill of Rights to protect us from you and what you are trying to do all over America, which is slowly but intently strip us of all our freedoms one by one.

Members of my family have fought in every war this country has had in the last 395 years. Some have died and some have lived, but all believed in this country and its freedoms. I sit here today and commit to those same values they believed in, and will defend them with my life and sacred honor. I ask you as Americans to do the same and obey the oaths of office you took to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. But if you do not remember this, we free Americans are legion, and we don't forget.

God bless America