

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 5647-AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH CAPACITY FIREARMS, SB 124- AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES, SB 501- AN ACT CONCERNING THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS, SB 505- AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE A RIFLE, SB 122 - AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON GUN USE

Good afternoon. I grew up in Ridgefield, CT and moved back with my husband and children in 2004. The events of December 14<sup>th</sup> have shaken me to the core. I never believed this could happen so close to my home in a state I love. I left NYC for better public schools, schools without metal detectors and an armed police force.

As a former prosecutor, I fully understand that the majority of gun crimes are committed with illegally obtained weapons; but that doesn't mean that we just allow people to own any weapon or any amount of ammunition that they want, particularly those that can cause massive destruction in mere seconds.

I am asking you, as our lawmakers, to enact the following:

1. A ban on high capacity ammunition magazines (no grandfathering);
2. Strengthening of assault weapons ban (no grandfathering);
3. The requirement of permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns;
4. The requirement that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person;
5. A required safety inspection every three years;
6. Making gun owners liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property - the violation would be a Class D felony;
7. A ban on the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet;
8. The requirement of a license/permit to purchase any gun or ammunition;
9. A restriction of handgun sales to one gun/month.

There are other suggestions I have which I believe would help law enforcement solve shootings and homicides, better prosecute and punish crimes involving guns, or to stop the flow of illegal guns from rogue gun dealers in places like VA:

1. Micro-stamping guns and bullets
2. Strict, mandatory jail sentences for possessions of illegal weapons
3. A Broader definition of what is a loaded weapon, using NY's definition as an example
4. Ensure that the statewide firearms trafficking task force is working effectively. We know that many of the illegally obtained weapons come from rogue gun dealers in places like VA. Work with NY and NJ to combat this.

Make this task force matter so that illegal guns can be taken off the streets in our cities.

In 2008, the Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess firearms for lawful use, such as self-defense. As Justice Scalia noted in *DC v Heller*- "Like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited... It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose." He further stated- "We do not cast doubt on concealed-weapons prohibitions, laws barring possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, laws barring firearms in sensitive places like schools and government buildings, and laws imposing conditions on commercial sale of arms. Also, the sorts of weapons protected are the sorts of small arms that were lawfully possessed at home at the time of the Second Amendment's ratification, not those most useful in military service today..." *See Heller* at 54-55.

The solutions will come from various areas, mental health, in our schools, with our parents and by partnering with those who legally obtain and use their weapons. Just as they have the right to legally own some weapons, I also have the right to be free from the mass carnage that some weapons and magazines can cause. I have the right to have my children be safe no matter where they are, whether they are at friends' houses, in school or at the movies.

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