

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee in support of Proposed Senate Bill No. 650, House Bill No. 6848, and House Bill No. 6962

Dear Committee Members,

I am unable to attend the March 11, 2015 hearing on the above bills, so respectfully request that this written testimony be accepted in lieu of in person testimony.

I am a resident of Sandy Hook - neighbor to many who were directly impacted by the tragic events of 12/14/12. There is a saying about statistics: when something happens to you or someone close to you, it is a tragedy: when it happens to someone outside your sphere, it is a statistic. I am proud of our CT Legislature for passing strong violence prevention laws in the wake of my town's tragedy, but that accomplishment should not prevent further action on measures that will make our state safer.

The bills under consideration are important measures that will save lives. Supporting domestic violence victims and extending the removal of firearms from an alleged abuser to the dangerous period when a temporary restraining order is granted should not be controversial. The rights of the alleged abuser to regain gun rights are supported by a court hearing mandated within two weeks.

Safe storage laws cannot prevent all misuse of weapons, but the liability they impose commands the attention of gun owners and promotes better safety practices. People are forgetful, and preventing unauthorized access to weapons at all times is a serious ongoing responsibility. Nancy Lanza considered herself a responsible law abiding gun owner. Perhaps if this law were in effect three years ago she would have taken precautions to prevent access to her guns by her troubled son.

I urge you to support the passage of these common sense bills to protect the citizens of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Barbara Richardson
31 Osborne Hill Rd
Sandy Hook, CT 06482