

Written Testimony to my CT. Judiciary Committee-March 14th, 2016

Dennis R. Savage

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Dear Legislative body.

When my ancestors landed in what is now Plymouth, Mass., there was no United States of America, no constitution or Bill of Rights. They lived under the law of the King of England until it became unbearable.

In or about 1775 the tyranny became so intolerable that the citizen immigrants took up 'hidden' arms against the kings men and fired the 'shot heard round the world'. Five of my ancestors, Ebenezer Hopkins, Johnathon Blakeslee, Elisha Savage, Seth Savage and Joel Savage answered the call to report for duty to fight for freedom from the oppression from the king. I know their names and where they all lived. Ebenezer was from Rhode Island and the other four were from Connecticut.

After they joined the militia, fought and won our independence, they chose leaders to form our government, create a constitution and add a Bill of Rights. The First Amendment to the Bill of Rights gives me the right to free speech which I am exercising with this letter and would gladly stand before you in person if I did not have a previous commitment. The second Amendment to the Bill of Rights gives me the Right to Bear Arms which I have enjoyed much of my life.

Now, over two hundred years later I am fighting to keep the right that my ancestors fought so selflessly for all of us. There will always be tragedy, evil or insane persons will always think of a way to harm others and good citizens will always stand up to protect the innocent as we are able.

I was on a business trip in California on December 2nd of 2015. That afternoon I drove from Oceanside up to Palm Springs and right through San Bernardino. I did not know of the travesty that took place that very day until later that evening. The news sent chills down my spine as I thought about what I could or would do if I were confronted with a plot by someone to kill innocent people and I could not defend myself or others. I am a law abiding citizen. I own long guns and have a permit to carry pistols or revolvers in Connecticut.

Please keep my Second Amendment Right to defend myself and others if the need arises in Connecticut as well as hunt and sport shoot.

Respectfully,

Christian Chaplain, Dennis R. Savage