

My name is Alex Harris. I am a resident of Ridgefield, CT. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony electronically, in lieu of appearing in person.

Ease of gun access and the quantity of guns per capita are strongly and positively correlated to levels of gun violence; these correlations hold up across all demographic and geographic groups. By comparison, media violence (video games, movies, television) has never been credibly correlated to gun violence. Thus, it is imperative this Working Group recognize gun safety regulation, and only gun safety regulation, will be able to realistically limit the chances of another tragedy.

I urge you to implement the following commonsense laws and regulations:

1. Gun Licensing and Ongoing Registration Requirements: Every gun held, possessed, sold or transferred in the state should be subject to a comprehensive registration and database program. The "registration" for each firearm should minimally be renewed every 2 years, and should be subject to in-person inspection of the gun for compliance with safety regulations (to determine, for instance, if a gun has been illegally modified to allow high-frequency or high-capacity automatic or semi-automatic fire). Failure to produce a gun for its scheduled inspection or to produce verified documentation of the transfer of custody of the gun, should be subject to stringent fines, and prison for those guilty of repeated offenses.
2. Gun Operator Licensing: Every gun purchaser, whether through a dealer or private transaction, should be subject universal background check, extended waiting period and licensing permitting process. Gun owners should be required to renew licensing every two years, with initial and ongoing training requirements and competency testing at every renewal interval (similar to automobile licensing). The minimum age for gun ownership should be 21 years old (same as alcohol).
3. Sales Tax on Gus, Ammunition & Paraphernalia: A sales tax of 25% should apply to all sales/transfers of guns and gun accessories, except that gun safety devices (trigger locks, secure storage lockers, etc.) should be tax exempt. Ammunition should be taxed at the greater of \$1 per bullet, or 25%.
4. Ban Semi-Automatic and Assault Type Weapons: Strengthen the existing ban, to prohibit weapons which include any one or more of the following military features: folding stock; pistol grip; barrel shroud; threaded barrel; barrel mount for bayonet. These prohibitions should apply retroactively, but there should also be a three (3) month grace period following the signing date of the law, with a "fair market" buy-back program for guns which can be documented to have been purchased prior to passage of the law; after the grace period, possession or transfer of such a weapon in Connecticut should be subject to criminal prosecution with expensive fines or jail time if found guilty.
5. Ban High Capacity Magazines: There should be an outright ban on possession, sale or transfer of any ammunition clips, magazines, cartridges or other devices which allow firing of 7 or more bullets without reload, or which allow rapid reload. This ban should apply retroactively, but there should also be a three (3) month grace period following the signing date of the law, with a "fair market" buy-back program for any banned ammunition/devices which can be documented to have been purchased prior to passage of the law; after the grace period, possession or transfer of such ammunition/device in Connecticut should be subject to criminal prosecution

with expensive fines or jail time if found guilty.

6. Prohibit Gun Shows, Advertising and Promotions: Gun shows, advertising and promotions should be prohibited in Connecticut similar to the way that cigarette advertising and promotions are prohibited.
7. Custody, Storage, Handling and Use Requirements: Promulgate gun and ammunition custody, storage, handling and use requirements, with criminal penalties for non-compliance, including stiff fines and possibility of jail time for repeated offenses.
8. Carry Permits Should Be Tightened: Require separate permitting for each individual for each firearm the individual wishes to publicly carry, either openly or concealed. Create new, tighter standards for concealed carry, which require documented verification of need for such carry (either for professional reasons, or due to the existence of credible and imminent threats against the permit candidate's person or dependents); such concealed carry permit should be time-limited or otherwise conditioned to the continued existence of the criteria by which the permit was originally justified.
9. Promote Sensible Gun Safety Regulation in Other Jurisdictions: Require each branch of state government and every state agency to actively advocate and promote the above gun safety regulations in any pertinent or relevant inter-governmental activities or proceedings in which they may participate. Owing to the ease with which guns and ammunition can be carried across state lines, it is imperative that Connecticut's government advance these same provisions at the Federal level and in other states.

These types of sensible regulations, which are entirely 2nd Amendment compliant, are the ONLY means to effectively reduce gun violence.

Sincerely, Alex J. Harris