TO: The Honorable Martin Looney & Craig Miner

RE: Gun Safety Testimony

I am one of the many law abiding citizens of this state who owns a firearm. I have served my country in warfare and my community as a volunteer fireman, willing to enter burning buildings to find unconscious people. The only offenses I have committed are two speeding tickets 30 years ago.

I am asking you not to punish myself and other law abiding gun owners as you seek to craft more responsible regulations. I own two firearms and have followed every process, license, training and other requirement the state has prescribed. I belong to a sporting club that does background checks on all prospective members in order to keep a responsible and safe environment.

In the zeal to prevent incidents such as Sandy Hook or Aurora or Virginia Tech or others, everyone is assuming that enacting rules that apply to people like myself will provide sufficient safeguards. THEY WILL NOT. It is imperative that we all act to identify and curb people with criminal intent.

The Discovery Channel ran a documentary several years ago in which the reporter was able to purchase a fully automatic Uzi for $1,000. He obviously did not. BUT..... if I had criminal intent, any laws you might pass would not prevent me from seeking out such a seller and then inflicting injury and death on many people in some venue.

So let's get to the root cause to the greatest degree possible:

- If a person wants a firearm, they must submit to a background check which includes any mental health conditions that might be catalysts for violent behavior. That includes all other states, not just Connecticut and without time limitations.
- Start a nationwide control of video game content such that games which reward killing police officers or other acts of violence are not allowed. Remember, Hitler was able to manipulate young people so that when they were of age, they had no hesitation to kill women, children and elderly in Poland and other countries.
- Barring ammunition purchases from people who cannot purchase a firearm
- Increase enforcement of black market arms purchases. If legal doors are closed, a person with criminal intent can easily purchase an illegal weapon as cited above. Please focus police effort on illegal weapon s, not the weapons or magazines that law abiding citizens have purchased.

The biggest danger we face is not another incident like those mentioned above. It is passing laws that absolutely polarize our society into groups that shout obscenities and shake their fists at each other in absolute outrage. Texans are already developing a petition to secede from the country. This will not happen, but it illustrates the deep rooted emotions surrounding legal firearms ownership.

In your efforts to increase public safety, please do not penalize or punish me for being a law abiding citizen for 68 years. Please focus on laws that identify people with potential criminal intent and their access to weapons.