

Dear Members of the Committee,

I live in Weston, CT and have done so for the past 9 1/2 years. While I have not spent a great deal of time active in gun regulatory issues, I have become increasingly concerned with the lack of common sense gun regulation in the State of CT and throughout the United States.

As a homeowner, I'm required, by law, to insure my home. I had to have a safety inspection of my home before the purchase was complete. I had to insure that any above ground oil burners were either buried or removed from my property, not only to protect me and my family, but my larger community whether it be my town, state or country. I am required to pay annual taxes on my home, or risk losing it.

As a car owner, I am required, by law, to pass a driving test, to make sure I have car insurance and that my car is properly maintained and inspected. I have to pay annual taxes for the privilege of owning a car. This is to protect me, my family and the community. I am prohibited, by law, from consuming alcohol and getting behind the wheel of car. This is to protect me, my family and my community. I am prohibited, by law, from holding my cel phone and talking on it while driving.

As a pet owner, I am legally required to register my pet and make sure she is properly vaccinated against rabies. This is to protect me, my family and my community.

The laws of the State and of the country are designed to protect me and my community. With the privileges of home, car and pet ownership comes great responsibility. Responsibility, required by law, that I must adhere to, or risk losing that privilege.

If someone would like to own a gun, they have that right in this country, protected by the Second Amendment and upheld by the Supreme Court in Heller v DC. But, they too, should be required to adhere to certain safety practices. My life, my children's lives are at greater risk because of guns in my community. Accidental gun deaths are responsible for thousands of deaths per year. A gun in the home is 2 1/2 times more likely to kill a family member, or visitor than to kill a potential intruder.

My rights in this country entitle me to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I am entitled to feel safe in my community. I am entitled to have my children feel safe and not worry that a gun accidentally, or purposely kills them because of improper storage. I shouldn't have to reassure my children when we go to a movie, or walk through a parking lot, or when they enter their school that they are not going to be gunned down by someone wielding an automatic weapon.

It seems like the bare minimum to require gun owners to have a safety inspection of their weapon. It seems like common sense to make gun owners responsible for properly storing their weapons, or face a stiff punishment. Given that we need to pass a test to drive a car, it seems like common sense to require gun owners to account for their weapons and have a universal background check to make sure they are of sound mind before purchasing a gun.

I'm so tired of the violence. Of Tucson, Aurora, Newtown, not to mention the 80 gun deaths that occur every day in this country. Every day.

I support the legislative agenda put forth by CAGV, which includes:

- 1) a ban on high capacity ammunition magazines (no grandfathering);
- 2) a strengthening of assault weapons ban (no grandfathering);
- 3) requirement of permits and universal background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns;
- 4) requirement of registration of handguns with annual renewal;
- 5) requirement of annual fee and annual background check for all handguns owned;
- 6) requirement that the owner stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person;
- 7) require safety inspection every three years;
- 8) 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;
- 9) a ban on the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet;

10) taxing ammunition sales and requirement of a license/permit to purchase any gun or ammunition; restriction of handgun sales to one gun/month.

Thank you for your time.

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