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**Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Public Hearing
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Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Curt Johnson. I live in Lyme and I have a wife and 4 year old son. I was sickened and saddened to hear of the recent events in Newtown. I see the level of violence in society on the rise. I see the value of life cheapened. I'm 46 years old I don't remember it always being like this. It's scary out there. I want our children to be safe.

There is a long list of proposed gun control legislation in front of us. I'm not a rocket scientist but I don't see anything in these proposed laws that will prevent violence and prevent future attacks. These new laws would only affect law abiding people. Criminals by nature do not follow the law. The criminal can pick and choose what weapon they want and the place where they want to use it. The rest of us can only react to the criminal. If I choose to defend myself, I want to choose the weapon I want, not have the state dictate what they deem appropriate. If these measures pass the criminal not only gets the advantage of surprise but now they get to out gun us as well. Restriction of magazine size only guarantees the criminals will have whatever size magazine they want and the citizen gets stuck with what the state allows. Any new law that restricts a law abiding citizen in CT the ability to obtain a gun and ammunition just makes it easier for the lawless criminal to operate with fewer obstacles. Is a criminal going to pay a tax, get insurance or obey a magazine restriction? Yet this is what is proposed and all it does is burden the law abiding and leave the criminal untouched.

When my son went back to school after the Newtown incident I was happy to see a marked and unmarked state police car at his school in the parking lot and a friendly officer walking the halls and visiting the class rooms. I know the state police do not have the resources to have an officer in every school every day in Connecticut. I do know it made me feel my son was safer and more protected. When I ask myself if any of these new restrictive gun laws proposed will make my son any safer I have to answer NO. I want a good guy with a gun at the school ready to defend the children if the need arises, not a sign that says "Gun Free Zone".