

**Testimony for Public Hearing
Gun Violence Prevention Working Group
January 28, 2013**

**Daniel J. Cewe, Jr.
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Good morning, members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group. My name is Daniel J. Cewe, Jr. and I'm concerned that the right to defend myself provided by both the United States and Connecticut Constitutions is in jeopardy. I own and carry firearms to protect myself, my family, and to keep the business that my family operates safe.

Many of the bills proposed to prevent criminals from committing violent acts with firearms will only serve to disarm law-abiding citizens and leave them vulnerable to criminals who will ignore the new laws, just as they have ignored the laws that already exist. Banning "assault weapons" is not the answer. "Assault weapons" are classified by cosmetic features of the firearm, and the lack of these features will not prevent criminals from using a firearm to harm innocent people. Firearms with these features have a legitimate place in a private citizen's home-protection plan. Examples of this would be rifles with "pistol grips" and firearms with limited magazine capacities. Rifles with a "pistol grip" are more ergonomic and are easier to operate. Our citizens deserve to be able to choose to defend themselves and their families with weapons that are not difficult to use. Limiting magazine capacities would force a victim to reload their weapon more often, possibly putting them at greater risk of harm. I'm sure there are plenty of elderly and disabled members of our community who would appreciate the option of being able to purchase firearms with features such as these.

I currently do not own an "assault rifle" but I feel that if a person decides that they would like to purchase one for protection or recreational purposes, that choice is protected by the Second Amendment.

I'm sure you're aware of the statistics for mass shootings during the Clinton gun ban period (1994 – 2004). The gun ban did nothing to decrease the number of mass shootings like the one in Newtown, the number of incidents actually increased during that time.

I understand that people want something to be done to stop terrible crimes like the one in Newtown, but but history shows that the legislation that requires registration and banning of firearms has not worked to stop crime. It has only worked to keep firearms out of the hands of law-abiding citizens who need them. The citizens of our state and country deserve better.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Cewe, Jr.