

Please accept my written testimony on this matter, as I cannot make it to your meeting today.

You **MUST** mandate a background check for anyone purchasing a gun of any kind.

You **MUST** mandate a background check for anyone seeking a permit to carry in the state.

There is no need for the average citizen to own assault rifles, so these must be monitored in such a way as to require the registering of them so the towns and state know who has them. The high capacity magazines could be refitted to hold less rounds. (Amount to be determined).

The federal Gov't has for the past 6-7 years given retired law enforcement people, like me, the right to carry our personal weapons nationwide, by having us qualify and then get certified to do so by our local PD or agency. This **IS A GOOD THING**. It puts more **GOOD GUYS** out in public with the right to carry and the ability to step into a situation and perhaps save lives in the process. I think if there had been an off duty cop or retired cop in the theater that night, he or she may have been able to stop the slaughter.

Most importantly, anyone who owns weapons, whether they are assault types, or 6 round revolvers, **MUST** keep them away from **CHILDREN** and family members and friends that they know are mentally ill, depressed or in any other way a possible threat to society. Family knows when their members have a problem. Make it so they are responsible for getting those people help.

Isn't there something in the news right now about a 3rd grader who was given a gun for protection by a family member? **THAT PERSON MUST BE PUNISHED** and an example needs to be made of this event.

**DAVID C. MARSDEN**

**President of Newinton Rotary Club**

**Former Pres. of Newington Chamber of Commerce**

**RETIRED WEST HARTFORD POLICE OFFICER**