

To: Connecticut General Assembly

I am submitting written testimony because my family fears I will be injured if I go to tonight's hearing in person. The large numbers of angry pro-gun zealots who have come to the hearings this week have intimidated peaceful citizens like myself. That these zealots had the gall to heckle a bereaved Newtown father when he testified in Hartford on January 28 is proof that they have no respect for people who don't share their pro-gun views.

Please do not listen to these zealots.

The right to live in peace and safety is far more important than any right to own a gun. We need to ban all military-style weapons regardless of when they were purchased. We need to strengthen background checks for all firearm purchases and transfers. We need registration for all firearms, and registration needs to be renewed annually. We need stricter regulations on where guns can be fired.

In my life I've been intimidated/harmed by guns several times. In high school an abusive boyfriend told me he had a gun and at various times threatened to use it on himself, on me, or on my dog. As a young wife, I came home one night to find my husband pointing a double-barreled shotgun at me as a "joke" – some kind of John Wayne playacting – we got divorced not long after that. Another time I was riding in a friend's car on a Sunday afternoon in broad daylight in the Bull's Head section of Stamford when the car's rear window was suddenly shot out by a stray bullet. In 2006, I was mowing my front lawn here in Norwalk when an unknown person in a passing car shot me in the leg. Luckily it was only a BB gun and I was not seriously hurt.

Guns are much too easily available. Our society, our nation, and our beautiful state of Connecticut would be much better off without guns. At the very least, we need to regulate gun ownership and gun use at the same level as we regulate who can own and operate a motor vehicle.

Sincerely,

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