

**TO: Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Public Hearing**

**January 28, 2013**

**By: James J. Crook      408 Copse Rd Madison, CT      (203) 988-0506**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My name is James Crook. I'd like to thank the Governor and all the Legislators for their wisdom and patience in regards to this delicate and emotional issue. It is important that we use common sense while simultaneously utilizing accurate facts in the months ahead. I look forward to the open and honest debate on this issue, and the transparency the public deserves.

As we discuss gun violence prevention, we will not find the solution in creating more gun control. Restricting law abiding citizens from owning firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition is not the solution to a safer community. There is already enough regulation required to own a firearm. Much of the proposed legislation will turn law abiding citizens into felons. Other legislation will ensure that owning a firearm will be almost impossible because of the prohibitive taxes and fees. Few will prevent crime, make our communities safer or keep the criminals from acquiring their illegal firearms.

Restricting the ownership of certain firearms from Responsible gun owners only prohibits those who follow the law from possessing those firearms. Common sense dictates that criminals are going to break the law and it is impossible to take a firearm away from someone who is intent on misusing one. That is a fact everyone can agree on.

Current laws should be enforced. Mandatory sentencing for crimes involving firearms, especially illegal possession of a firearm, should be the target for every law enforcement agency in CT. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure public safety and that includes punishing those who break the law. The state task force on illegal firearms trafficking should be fully funded to remove those illegal firearms being sold on the street.

Proposed legislation only impacts the legal gun owner, will not prevent crime, and certainly will not create a safer environment.

Please remember the law of unintended consequences.

I thank you all for your deliberate investigation, your patience, and your time.