

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Public Hearing

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Good Afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the committee I would like to thank you for your time and your attention to my testimony. I am here today to express my opposition to any further infringements on my right as a law abiding human to keep and bear arms. The Constitutions of both the State of Connecticut and the United States protect this God given right.

In 2008 and 2010 the United States Supreme Court had upheld that this right is in fact guaranteed to the individual, and I believe that the words "shall not be infringed" are quite clear.

I have been shooting since I was six years old and have owned firearms since I was eighteen years old. None of my firearms have ever harmed a single person. I am having a hard time trying to figure out why rights are being potentially infringed by numerous bills that are being proposed by this committee and members of the State Legislature.

As you may be aware New York State has already acted in their Capitol by ramming through legislation that; in my opinion will have no effect on violent crime. Why is this? Because criminals DO NOT follow laws. In fact the New York State's Sheriffs Association has released the following in a statement:

"We believe that the new definition of assault weapons is too broad, and prevents the possession of many weapons that are legitimately used for hunting, target shooting and self defense. Classifying firearms as assault weapons because of one arbitrary feature effectively deprives people the right to possess firearms which have never before been designated as assault weapons. We are convinced that only law abiding gun owners will be affected by these new provisions, while criminals will still have and use whatever weapons they want."

In closing I would like to say – my grandfather – a Navy Sailor and skilled rifleman put boots on the ground on a beach in Normandy to protect our way of life – including the right to keep and bear arms – from Nazis with guns. With all due respect I'll be damned if I let our way of life be destroyed by domestic bureaucrats with pens.

Thank you for your time.

James Keyser