

Testimony to the Subcommittee on Gun Violence-

I would like to acknowledge the Task Force Committee on Gun Violence.

My name is John Chipman and I live in Sandy Hook. I am speaking today to encourage you to pass the legislative proposals submitted by CT Against Gun Violence; a comprehensive package of gun violence prevention measures which could be a model for the nation and help prevent the mass shootings like what happened at Sandy Hook School.

Although I am a resident of Sandy Hook CT and a father of 2 children who attend(ed) St Rose school, I actually grew up in Newtown and went through the public school system. Our community is still reeling from December 14, 2012 and as we look to the future, I wish for my children and future generations that they will be able to attend school without going through metal detectors or passing armed policemen in hallways with no natural light. Schools need to be safe, calm spaces where children can create and learn. Our children need to feel safe in public places and if there are NO assault weapons or high-capacity magazines available to ANYONE but the armed services and police, this feeling of safety can be achieved.

We all have the right to own guns, but the current limits on that right are so far beyond what is Reasonable, that my right to live peacefully is far outweighed by the guns owners' rights to own weapons which are intended for the military. Reasonable balance is what is necessary. Hunting and sports guns with a limited capacity of repetitive shots are reasonable. Guns intended to murder as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time are not reasonable for public use.

This legislation will NOT keep law-abiding citizens from owning firearms. But it WILL make us safer and it WILL do more to prevent those prohibited by law from obtaining guns. It is time to protect our children, not gun manufacturers.

JMJM Chip