

My name is John Thomas Markey IV and I am from the town of Wilton, CT.  
Thank you to Task Force for investing time in a public hearing on this divisive topic.

I am a father of three under the age of eight.  
I am a business executive who leads and employs a team of 15 here in Connecticut and another 15 across the U.S.  
I am a Republican and a fiscal conservative  
I am a hunter and a gun owner  
I am an advocate for gun safety and controls.

I support aggressive and thorough background checks for the sale and ownership of all guns, including in the oft forgotten gun shows and even the individual and personal sale from person to person.

I support a registry system that requires the verification and licensing of guns with semiannual ownership reverification.

I support the suspension of the sale of assault weapons in the State of Connecticut and the banning of ownership of assault weapons in our state, excluding ownership by our military and police.

I support the suspension of the sale of high capacity magazines in the State of Connecticut and the banning of ownership of high capacity magazines in our state.

I support an expansion of mental health care access to help identify real human needs and eliminate the stigma for people to seek and receive assistance.

I support a law that requires submitting the names and identity of mental health patients, violent and non violent, to a gun registry program that would require State and/or Federal approval before a gun could be purchased and registered to them.

I am not a proponent for putting guns into our schools, through guards, or armed teachers, but instead a reformed gun policy program and intervention program that helps to proactively prevent these horrible tragedies.

Connecticut is the Constitution State. That does not mean that we wrote the Constitution, but that we are the first state to enact and build a structure of government to enact laws.....laws that were designed to protect the citizens of the colony and future state.

Something must change. Please help Connecticut make this change. Uphold Thomas Jefferson's famous words, providing our right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". Please keep in mind during your discussions and deliberations that each person's right "of life" should be taken as the ultimate right they are afforded.....a right that should come before each person's right "to bear arms".

Thank you,

**John Markey**

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