

Testimony

To: CT. Legislators

The Citizens of Connecticut overwhelmingly want to ban assault weapons and tighten the current purchasing laws. These two changes have little or no effect to the rights of sensible gun owners who hunt or shoot at targets. I have heard many military, law enforcement and hunters interviewed who say NO ONE needs an assault weapon like the one Adam Lanza used. The NRA, supported by big gun and ammunition manufacturers, has a bully mentality. We need to stop being afraid of them. They really have very little power, as shown in the last election where only one candidate out of the eight they supported was elected. Americans are ready for changes to stop this needless killing of innocent people. We have the highest rate of firearms related homicide in the industrialized world, as reported in the American Journal of Public Health, 2009..

When Australia passed gun control laws in 1996, the suicide and murder rates dropped by 65 percent. There have been no more mass killings. A study cited also in the American Journal of Public Health showed that a person who owns a gun is 4 times more likely to be shot. How much more information do we need to make these changes in our gun laws. Let Connecticut set an example for the rest of the country.

Sincerely,

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