

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is June Vitiello, and I reside in Wolcott CT. My profession is in the computer field. After the tragedy of the Cheshire home invasion, I took it upon myself to learn how to safely operate guns. I got a CT pistol permit, and joined a local sports shooting club to train and be comfortable using guns for self-defense.

Let me start by stating my opposition to any future legislation that will infringe, limit, ban, or impose monetary penalties, such as a tax or liability insurance mandate, on law abiding citizens who freely exercise the 2nd Amendment. This includes opposition to publishing my personal identifiable information on the internet simply because I have a gun permit.

There is a constant drumbeat of misconceptions pushed daily by the mainstream media that law abiding citizens do not NEED an assault rifle, and that we do not NEED a 30 round magazine, or 20, or 10. These are false arguments. Whether I'm facing one, two or multiple attackers, a gun with a single bullet would be completely useless. No one in this room has the authority to tell me what the right number of bullets is, or what type of gun I should or shouldn't use to defend myself because no one could possibly know what the situation would require at that moment. Having access to a semi-automatic sports rifle with multiple rounds could at least give me and others a fighting chance against one or multiple attackers.

Another misconception being pushed is that the 2nd Amendment is for hunting. It is not. It purposefully protects a citizen's right to bear arms not only for basic self-defense but also for protection against a tyrannical government.

I recommend the following:

- **Enforcing existing laws and strengthening sentences to help keep criminals, mentally deranged individuals, drug addicts, and even terrorists off our streets; stiff penalties if they use guns**
- **Our early release program should be terminated for violent criminals, especially criminals that use illegal guns**
- **The death penalty should be re-instated**
- **Mental institutions should be re-opened so that patients get the help they need vs mainstreaming them**
- **I recommend actions that ban children's access to violent TV shows, violent video games, and violent movies**
- **Other societal issues that lead to violence should be looked at such as: lack of moral values, the erosion of the core family, and the absence of religion and faith in our public discourse**
- **If I can suggest that this work group focus on the root causes of violence in general---not just gun violence. Gun Control is an easy scapegoat to pass a lot of laws that impact many but solve nothing**

I am saddened about the deaths of so many children and teachers at the hands of a very disturbed and deranged young man. Unfortunately evil people commit evil acts and no laws will ever completely stop them. Please focus attention on restricting EVIL people's rights for the benefit of society----and not restricting GOOD people's rights. Thank you.

Sincerely,

June Vitiello, Wolcott, CT