Testimony in favor of an assault weapons ban.

As a resident of the state of CT for over 30 years, I have raised a family here and have two children that have gone through the public school system. Gun violence has been a concern of ours for many years, and the recent tragic events at Newtown's Sandy Hook School have put this issue in sharp focus.

We in this State have been far too cavalier in the proliferation of guns. The ease of which Adam Lanze was able to get a hold of such devastating weapons to do his perverse killing is astounding. It points out that the current gun laws are inadequate in making sure that these types of weapons do not fall into the wrong hands.

Recently, I have gotten into many heated discussions, and I constantly hear about how proposed new gun laws only punish the law abiding, responsible gun owner. Every single gun owner I have had this discussion with tells me about how responsible they are; how they have taken a gun safety course and learned how to shoot from a professional on a range. Every one. How do we know they are responsible? Are we just supposed to just take their word for it? How do we know that everyone in their household and friends that may come in contact with these weapons are responsible? I'll bet that Adam Lanze's mother said that she was a responsible law abiding gun owner and look how easy it was for her deranged son to get a hold of those weapons.

These assault weapons are not what is needed for self-defense, and certainly not manufactured or needed for hunting or sport. They only present a huge risk to the lives and safety of the citizens of our State and must be banned from sale in our State. When you speak of upholding our rights under the constitution, one must also consider our rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness. Surely these are the rights that are being infringed under current circumstances.

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