

Bipartisan Task Force On Gun Violence Prevention
Legislative Office Building 300 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

January 27, 2012

To Respective Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

I am a law abiding gun owner and legal carry permit holder; a nurse, and life- long resident of Bridgeport.

The tragedy in Sandy Hook has nothing to do with gun legislation here in CT, where we have in place some of the strictest laws in the country. I would implore you start enforcing them, and reject the proposed bills for your consideration that serve only to legislate against, and demonize the law abiding citizen exercising our rights under our own State and Federal Constitution. While the media and pro-gun control organizations demonize the NRA, please remember that they ARE "We the People"; and they are doing exactly what you, as an elected official are sworn to; that is to uphold our Constitution; the document that makes our Country the greatest bastion of FREEDOM on the planet.

You are charged with protecting that freedom, and nowhere under the current law of the land do you have the authority to do otherwise. The 2nd Amendment right to bear arms against tyranny is to protect us from you, the government. It is not about hunting; not about sport; not even about crime. It is all about you – the government. I'm sure you'd all agree that history has proven it to be a most worthy document.

And while you consider now how to further infringe on our rights with even more restrictive legislation, I'd like to remind you of the irresponsible Early Release Program for criminals, and the repeal of the death penalty that you have so generously gifted to the criminals and murderers in Connecticut.

I will add my dismay at the very bias and partisan, and transparent intimidation tactics of the workgroup and legislature toward 2nd Amendment advocates, in the form of metal detectors at the capitol building in "preparation" for meetings, the choice of having a task force hearing at "ground zero" in Newtown, and last but not least, testimony from Aurora, Colorado regarding consideration for Connecticut law.

Having now concluded my testimony for your consideration, I will submit to you the following bills I could support:

HB-5224 AN ACT ELIMINATING RISK REDUCTION CREDITS: This bill that would eliminate the Governor's Early Release Program that has received intense scrutiny since it was enacted last year. As a result of its implementation several murders and violent crimes have been committed by inmates who were released before completing their sentences.

HB-5165 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON'S HOME, MOTOR VEHICLE OR BUSINESS: This bill is intended to clarify an individual's right to "stand their ground" and defend themselves from an attacker, in their home, business, or automobile.

HB-5176 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER: This proposal would create uniform criteria for municipalities issuing pistol permits.

HB-5269 AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR CRIMINAL USE OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON: This bill increases the penalty from a Class D Felony to a Class C Felony for use of a firearm or Taser-type weapon during the commission of a crime.

HB-5952 AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM: This bill increases the penalty from a Class D Felony to a Class C Felony for illegally possessing a firearm.

AN ACT ALLOWING SCHOOL BOARDS TO ESTABLISH PROTOCOLS PERMITTING SCHOOL PERSONNEL OR STAFF TO POSSESS WEAPONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS (Bill number unassigned yet): This bill clarifies that existing law permits school officials to establish protocols permitting school personnel or staff to possess weapons on school grounds.

Thank you for your time, and may God guide you in this process,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa M. Murrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606