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Distinguished members of the Bi-partisan panel for gun safety. Thank you for listening to my testimony. I am Luis Hernandez and I reside in Hartford. I ask that you be fair and balanced in reviewing the wealth of information that is being handed to you today. I feel for you all and do not envy your task. I pray for you, that the decisions made, will be in good conscience.

As all moral people here. I was devastated by the horrible tragedy at Newtown. As all the good law abiding citizens of our country also are. I also am angry. My heart and sincere sympathy to all those that lost loved ones. I pray for them all and for the souls of the lost.

My wife Lorena of 19 years, Daughters Andrea 24, Jackie 19 and Aimee 15 all participate in the shooting sports, target rifle, target pistol and trap. My wife and I have gone to NRA firearm safety course, I have also taken a "Use of Deadly Force" class that is a comprehensive course to understand the laws and our responsibility as firearm owners, Hunter safety course, and have also served proudly 6 years in the U.S.Army. To say that I take firearm safety seriously is a understatement.

I have trained my family in firearms safety. We do take it seriously but we also have fun. We found that these activities teach our children responsibility. Going to the range is a family event and brings us closer together. Also since females are more likely to be a victim of violent crime and my family is in a higher percentage bracket. The firearms training will give them one more tool if they chose to use it for there defense in the future when they are on there own.

After the Petit family murders my youngest daughter was truly affected by the event. So I began a quest, reevaluated security in my house, trained my family to be more diligent in keeping doors and windows locked. My wife who had never shot a firearm until a little over a year ago and I under went the rigorous process of obtaining our pistol permits. We under went back ground checks, criminal history checks, finger printing & additional release forms to check our medical & credit information which although is not needed by state law we complied.

I train my daughters in some self defense, situational awareness, de-escalation and escalation. I feel I have given them tools to help them defend themselves if a violent crime should come there way. Our Legislature need to do the same. Banning any standard capacity magazines or any semi automatic firearms. Simply because it looks scary will only create more victims. You will be giving a blue print to criminals on just how much firepower they need to perpetrate their crimes such as home invasions like in the Petit murders. As Governor Cuomo stated "you don't need 7 bullets to kill a deer". He is right I only need 1, but I do need 30 rounds to stop 4 armed intruders bent on killing my family. I don't have a security detail like he does I am the first responder, the victim is always the first one at the scene of a crime.

I was in the military I know what a assault rifle is and these rifles are not assault rifles. They simply have furniture that make them look like an assault rifle. The action is different it only shoots one projectile per squeeze of the trigger. This term has been hijacked by the anti gun lobby and politicians for their agenda of disarming the American people and has been helped by a uneducated media which seems to like to make up the news in favor of reporting the news.

I conclude that justice is not to create more victims or criminalizing the law abiding citizens. Instead enforce the laws already on the books. Harsher penalties when criminals perpetrate crimes with a firearms. No early release and No plea bargain when a crime is committed with a firearm. Most of all don't punish the law abiding citizen for the actions of a madman.