

To whom it might concern.

Hello as I'm unable to attend to the public hearing "Gun Violence" Prevention Working Group which will be held on Monday January 28, please include my testimony.

I am a resident of Waterbury, CT. I'm a husband, lawful citizen and a tax payer. I am also a responsible legal gun owner.

I am writing to express my opposition to any bills that will harm or impaired the exercise of the 2nd amendment.

I went through a difficult process to get my gun permit like any other law abiding citizen and any other measures will only affect us.

I came from a country were guns are illegal for general public; but still the crime rates (mass murders, rape, drugs, etc.) are high. Criminals do not respect or follow any laws; that's why they are criminals. They don't buy their weapons from guns stores... they go to the black market making the general public pay the price.

If other countries had tried this approach, what would make you believe it will work here?

I do believe on a strong medical system where people who don't feel well can attend, where people with mental disabilities can be treated.

Please respect the rights of thousands upon thousands of gun owners in Connecticut.

Freedom is sacred. It should be cherished and defended. The removal of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution simply changes the status of a free citizen who can defend themselves to that of a subject. The right to bear arms is one of the many freedoms that separate us from other nations.

Aristotle understood this freedom: “Both oligarch and tyrant mistrust the people, and therefore deprive them of arms”

Connecticut should be known as a state that champions the individual rights, be it freedom of speech, religion, origin, sexual preference or the right to bear arms. It should not be the state that begins the road to oppression.

Please allow home owners to protect themselves and their families from unlawful intruders.

Thank you,

Mario Mesa

Waterbury, CT