

To Whom it May Concern,

I am providing testimony in support of laws that will promote gun safety and help reduce future gun violence. To me, this is fundamentally a public health and public safety issue, and we are in the midst of an epidemic of gun violence that I believe and data suggest we CAN do something about. Change must begin with strengthening gun laws, including but not limited to ensuring that ALL gun sales are done officially and with background checks, reducing access to guns by people known to be a potential risk, significantly limiting public access to high capacity ammunition clips. I believe that I represent the beliefs of the majority of the public with these suggestions.

A large part of my desire for change is informed by my professional background. As a clinical psychologist, there is no denying that mental health factors (and other societal factors) are intertwined with gun violence, and that there are a lot of individuals out there who are distressed. That said, even assuming the most idealistic mental health system imaginable, there will always be individuals who: a) slip through the cracks of this system; b) refuse or resist treatment; and/ or c) have no history of mental health problems but experience a significant/sudden decline in mental health status or become affected by transient emotions which could trigger acts of gun violence. It is precisely because of these realities that it is essential that reform address the sale of guns.

Thank you very much for your time,

Marni A.
Fairfield County, CT