

Michael Anderson
New Hartford, CT

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Good day chairmen and other representatives of the task force,

My name is Michael Anderson. I have lived in Connecticut all of my life except for the five years that I spent in the United States Army. In that time I was honored to serve one year in Iraq. I am a member of the NRA and the Connecticut Citizens Defense League although do not think to speak for either of those organizations today.

I, like so many found myself rocked to the core after the events in Newtown Connecticut. Acts of evil, such as these are nearly impossible to comprehend. Although I see this event a little differently than many others I have heard speak on the topic. I view this tragedy as an act of domestic terrorism perpetrated by person who could have only been criminally insane. I cannot stand by and watch the rights of law-abiding citizens be stripped away because of an act of domestic terrorism.

There has been a battle of terminology going on for many years, the primary purpose of which has been to mislead those uninformed about firearms ownership. An "assault rifle" is a military term referring to a rifle with fully automatic capability, firearms of this type have been unavailable for private ownership since 1934. A semi-automatic firearm discharges one round with one pull of the trigger. An "assault weapon" has no commonly accepted definition. It is a term that is used to confuse those who are uninformed. To me an assault weapon is any weapon, with which one commits unlawful assault. Weather it is a rock, a pointed stick, a vehicle or any other inanimate object wielded to cause unwarranted harm.

I do not own an assault weapon, I do own a Modern Sporting Rifle, an ArmaLite Rifle model fifteen, an AR15. Do not be misled by those who wish to confuse you!

Firearm owners, such as myself, would never dream of committing any crime with a firearm. Their presence is only there to protect myself and my family in those critical moments between being confronted with someone who wants to do me harm, and the response of law enforcement officials. The onslaught of proposed legislation that limits the right of citizens to protect their home and their family is offensive. Having certain tools to protect your family does not make you a criminal. If I were to hand my modern sporting rifle to any member of this panel, I would have no fears that any of you would wield that firearm in a criminal manner. Because I do not think any of the members of this panel are dangerous criminals or mentally insane. The tool does not make a responsible citizen into a danger to society.

Many people say that the modern sporting rifles only use is to commit violent crime. But I would like to remind you that these rifles are the same that are widely supplied to police officers across this state. It is so selected because it is the most effective tool for the job. It is light, easy to use, accurate and reliable. It is not the tool, it is the man.

In this legislative session there have been nearly triple digit proposals to curtail the rights of American citizens. I urge the members of this task force not to proceed with emergency action, and allow for the legislative process to run its course. Three minutes of consideration is not enough and your constituents deserve better. Thank you for your time.