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Hi, good afternoon. My Name is Michael Rapetski and I am a 4th year Criminal justice major and a concerned American. I am here today because the law proposals being made will obliterate our right to keep and bear arms. These bills being proposed will have no effect on crime and instead disarm an innocent and law abiding people.

Criminals do not follow laws and in fact one criminological theory, the rational choice theory, suggests that deterrence does not work on criminals because they are in fact not rational people. Serious offenders do not weigh the consequences of committing a crime vs. the rewards. There is no law in the world that would prevent these people from committing a crime. By adding to the some 20,000 gun laws already on the books you are only robbing law abiding people of their rights and protecting those who do not obey the law, and in the case of felons, have been stripped of many of their rights to begin with. In countless studies and inmate interviews it has been revealed that it is quite easy to obtain an illegal gun on the streets and in most cases one can be obtained within an hour. This black market is real and there is no legislation that has been proposed today that is going to curb this problem in the slightest. These laws will only make it harder for a law abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families from criminals who are unrestricted in the guns they can obtain, magazines they can obtain, and amount and type of ammunition they can obtain.

The founding fathers believed that the first ten amendments, or the Bill of Rights, were unalienable rights given to us by our creator and could not be limited nor taken away by our government. Thomas Jefferson clearly defined this objective by stating "[A] bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse." With these proposals we are being refused our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in that we are being denied the right to protect ourselves in our persons, property, and the unequivocal American dream.

My Grandfather and Father fought for our country to protect our freedoms and these rights that are being so unscrupulously disregarded with such ineffective and senseless proposals.

What we need are better mental health laws. Most of these heinous acts that are committed with guns are done so by people were suffering severe mental health issues. There should be more mental health funding and laws to prevent these atrocities from ever happening not disarming an innocent and law abiding people.

Connecticut is the Constitution State we should abide by it and protect it. These rights were written for we the people and we the people will not allow government to infringe upon them.

Thank you.