

My name is Mike Merli, and I am from Milford, CT. After Aurora, I was shaken. Gun control became the main issue that I focused on during the election. I was passionate. I was vocal. I engaged friends and neighbors in debate. Many people told me that gun control was not an issue that would make or break the election. I was told that nobody cared. There's not a single person that can say that now. Any doubt in the need for stronger gun regulations has been washed away with all the shootings that occurred after James Holmes opened fire in a movie theater in Colorado. Especially the brutal, heartbreaking tragedy that occurred right here, in Newtown, CT. This has been such a surreal time for so many people. I grew up 40 minutes outside of Newtown. People talk about things being "too close to home," but this IS our home, and we need to honor our children and their protectors by making some serious changes.

I support strengthening the assault weapons ban.

I support banning large capacity magazines of more than 7 rounds.

I support requiring permits and background checks on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns.

I support an annual fee and background check for all handguns owned.

I support restricting handgun sales to one/month.

I support taxing ammunition sales and requiring a license/permit to purchase any new gun or ammunition.

I support making gun owners liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. This would be a Class D felony.

I support banning the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet.

I am happy these hearings are happening, and I thank you for your time and the opportunity to make my voice heard.

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Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony, and I hope it's not too late.

Thank you,

Mike Merli