

Committee Members of Gun Violence Prevention Workshop;

My name is Patrick Lacy. I would first, like to thank you for to opportunity to present testimony on this very sensitive issue.

I truly believe the orientation one has with regard to anything, including the use of firearms, comes from within the individual. Violent acts with firearms are no different. In an effort to bring substance to this claim, I would like to share with you my personal experience on becoming a licensed firearm owner in the state of CT.

After I made the decision to get licensed as you may know, the mental process started. Such as, what are the steps necessary? Doing research as to the what, where, why's, etc of this undertaking. This includes consulting one's friends and associates that are involved in the many facets of owning and the use of firearms. While on my journey, I started making a mental plan on how **I personally would approach this new endeavor**. Because, as one knows, beginning a new habit is not without is failings. So, I decided to first, once I received my permit, to begin by incorporating an empty holster into my daily routine for a couple of weeks. Then, I would add to this process an unloaded firearm for a two week period as well. Finally, I introduced the loaded firearm. Now, as I start the formal research, as in finding the proper info, professionals, etc, what do I find? This is the procedure that is recommended in the many resources that I uncovered on this process. So, it would seem to me that the responsible and non-violent use of firearms, in any case, rests with the individual. Can this be stated with regard to this horrific incident that took place in Newtown and has suddenly brought the use and ownership of firearms into the public consciousness? I believe that answer to this question is obvious.

In closing, I'd like to call your attention to the facts about gun related crime as disclosed by the FBI. According to the FBI, the estimated number of violent crimes in 2011 declined for the fifth consecutive year **and** has had an overall downturn of 50% over the past 20 yrs. Furthermore, rifles in total account for less than 3% of all homicides with the AR-15 a fraction of that. This all comes at a time when gun ownership, the use of firearms for sporting and permitting/licensing has increased **significantly** nationwide. Here is a link to more info;
www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-preliminary-annual-crime-statistics-for-2011.

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Patrick J. Lacy

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