

Testimony to the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

My name is Rev. Paul A. Fleck and I serve as the Coordinator for the New York Annual Conference Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, which includes United Methodist Churches throughout Connecticut West of the Connecticut River; the Conference Board of Church and Society is the social justice advocacy arm of the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

I write to express the Church's longstanding advocacy for stricter gun safety laws, as reflected in the letter from our predecessor Bishop, Jeremiah Park, attached hereto, and as reflected in the two resolutions attached hereto passed at the 2011 session of the New York Annual Conference. We would ask that all of these documents be included in the legislative record of this hearing.

In addition, there are individual churches throughout the New York Annual Conference engaged in advocacy efforts around this issue. For example, seventy (70) members of the New Milford United Methodist Church where I pastor signed the petition attached hereto; I sent it along with the cover letter to our federal legislators and the President.

Thank you for your commitment to this issue and to making Connecticut a safer place for us and future generations.

Sincerely,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck  
Coordinator,  
New York Annual Conference Board of Church and Society  
Pastor, New Milford United Methodist Church