

Testimony as it will be read at the Gun Violence Prevention hearing

Thank you for establishing a forum as an opportunity for us to voice our positions concerning Gun Violence Prevention.

My name is Robert Kwasnicki of Enfield. I am a father of a 10-year old daughter, and belong to a group whose membership includes teachers, doctors, homosexuals, heterosexuals, Christians, Jews, atheists, active and retired law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, sons, daughters, veterans, uncles, aunts, grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers and mothers. This group of people share an outrage over violence brought upon innocent lives, and are most recently grieved and deeply hurt by the crimes in Newtown. In one voice, heart and soul, we offer our deepest sympathies and prayers to the families suffering unimaginable loss.

This mentioned group is simply everyone in this room. We are all opposed to the type of violence that recently shook us to our core, and we all, in our respective ways, grieved and mourned and experienced outrage over the loss of our little brothers and sisters of Sandy Hook. In this we are not divided. We are united.

I present the following testimony on behalf of myself and a handful of Connecticut citizens regarding legislative initiatives to address Gun Violence Prevention:

We support allowing the appropriate time to conclude the investigations of Sandy Hook prior to enacting any legislation associated with the crime that infringes on the lawful possession and lawful access to firearms, and to any reclassification associated with firearms and firearms components or accessories.

We support stronger consequences for violent criminal activity.

We support the citizens in this room and throughout our state to maintain their right to decide whether to contribute to the responsibility of protecting themselves and their loved ones or whether to place that responsibility solely on law enforcement officials or any agency of the government.

We support curtailing or preventing illegal access to firearms, in order to prevent a repeat incident like we experienced in December of 2012.

We fully support an immediate creation of a task force comprised of law enforcement and law-abiding firearms owners to investigate avenues of illegal firearms access and to formulate recommendations to legislators for removing avenues of illegal firearms access.

I thank you for your time and attention to my testimony. May God bless us all with peace and love.

Respectfully,

Robert Kwasnicki (Enfield) – Father of one

Tracy Rapetski (Cheshire) – Mother of two

Michael Rapetski (Cheshire) – EMT/Firefighter/College student

John Fendt (Enfield) – Father of one

Justin Corcoran (Enfield) – Uncle