

Testimony for the Gun Violence Working Group of the
Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety
January 28, 2013

Chairmen Looney and Miner, members of the Working Group,

My name is Robert Starr. I am a lifelong resident of Torrington.

I strongly OPPOSE:

- The disclosure of Pistol Permit holders' personal information (HB 5112).
- Requiring liability insurance for gun owners and increased sales tax on ammunition (HB- 5268, HB-5452, HB-6261, SB-140).
- Any ban on so-called "Assault Weapons" or magazine capacities (HB-5935, HB-5949, HB-5950, HB-5952, HB-5953, HB-5954, HB-5955, HB-6215, HB-6249, SB-1, SB-124, SB-161, SB-501, SB-504, SB-600, SB-601, SB-613, SB-676).
- Ammunition purchase restrictions (HB-5951, HB-6246, HB-6249, SB-42, SB-608, SB-781).
- Gun Registration (HB-6245, HB-6248).
- Restricting gun capacity to a single shot (SB-122).
- Limiting gun purchases to one per thirty day period (HB-5957, SB-609).
- Prohibition on rebuilding older so-called "Assault Weapons" (SB-742).

I SUPPORT:

- Uniform Pistol Permit Application requirements (HB-5176).
- Increased penalties for criminal use or sale of firearms (HB-5269, HB-5656, HB-5676, SB-377, SB-496, SB-612, SB-679, SB-740, SB-743).
- A study to look for ways to improve the physical security of schools (5580).

I cannot express strongly enough how frustrating it is that so many people seem to think that restricting the activities of law-abiding citizens will somehow curtail the actions of criminals or those who are suffering from mental or emotional disorders. I am a gun collector and an avid shooter and I have many thousands of dollars invested in my hobby. It would pain me greatly to lose what I have worked very hard to accumulate. That being said, I don't actually NEED to have these guns. What I very much DO need is the RIGHT to have them. I applaud the effort you are making to try to make our children safer at school, but I believe that more will be accomplished toward that end by focusing on treatment of mental illness and making sure that violent criminals go to prison and stay there. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

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