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**Bipartisan Task Force on Children's Safety
& Gun Violence Protection
Gun Violence Prevention Sub-Committee
State of Connecticut**

RE: Written Public Testimony for 1/28/2013 Hearing

Dear Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Representatives,

As a life-long resident of Connecticut, law abiding gun owner, and father, I strongly urge you not to support the various broadly worded and discriminatory gun control bills that are being introduced within the CT State legislature. These bills severely infringe on the constitutional rights of CT citizens who own and use weapons for lawful purposes including hunting, target shooting, and personal protection.

While I share in the outrage felt by all CT residents and most Americans in the aftermath of the Newtown tragedy, I believe that targeting gun ownership in such a blanket way is an overly simplistic approach to addressing a much more complex societal problem. Enforcing existing gun laws more comprehensively, focusing on improving access to necessary mental health services, increased security in our schools, and appropriate safety training for our educators are much more effective approaches to addressing our state's needs.

The content of these proposed bills blatantly discriminate against a large segment of our population who have never used guns in an unlawful way, nor intent to. I strongly encourage you to not let emotional reactions to tragedy impair your ability to support appropriate measures to address our State's challenges versus targeting the most simplistic approach that will do little to solve this multifaceted problem.

Please consider my position as one that supports safeguarding Connecticut's children while maintaining the rights of all our citizens.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Steciak