

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

I understand that you will have a considerable amount of testimony to review today, so I will keep my comments brief.

If you review the laws currently in effect, both Federally and Connecticut, it will be evident that there are sufficient laws in place to curb gun violence while allowing a law-abiding firearm holder to retain his/her rights under the Constitution. I would ask the Committee to direct their attention toward the CRIMINAL element, those who show a total disregard of the law and the rights of others. Harsher penalties for those who commit gun violence, even the return (and actual USE) of the death penalty in the State of Connecticut for those who commit violent crimes. A re-education of those in the Judicial system of what happens to career violent criminals when they are prematurely released with no oversight or control.

I oppose the idea of passing new laws that will only constrict the RIGHT of the law-abiding firearm owner (or potential owner) of their right to keep and bear arms. There are many locales in Connecticut, and many time periods when there is a minimum of law enforcement on duty to cover a large area. In such cases, the individual finds it necessary to defend themselves and their family from the aforementioned violent criminal and MUST have the means to do so without repercussion from the justice system.

I thank you all for considering my comments.

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