

To the Working Committee,

I do not believe that new gun and ammunition laws will be the answer to stopping further violence in CT. or the U.S. for that matter. CT. has a background check system that works well. Access to firearms has been restricted more in recent years than ever before yet we see more instances of tragic events. When I was in Putnam High School we participated in rifle club and recreational shooting. Students actually brought firearms and ammunition to school for these events. No tragic events ever occurred. We were not the only school to have these shooting sports. I think this really begs the question what has happened to our society in the last 26 years?

I encourage the Working Group to tackle the real issue of mental health service. CT. has shut down most of it's facilities that housed and helped these people. We need to look at reopening these hospitals no matter the cost. Doctors and families need to have a place to take people that suffer from mental illness. These hospitals will protect the patients as well as the public.

The early release of prisoners and mental health patients by the state, to save money, also needs to be stopped. The Petit family home invasion is a tragic example of this. We must focus on the root cause of violence not the devices that are used to commit crimes.

I urge you to respect the Second Amendment in your research and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns,

Travis F. Serrine