

Dear Legislators,

My name is Vincent Roman. I am a resident of West Hartford, CT and a small business owner. I am here to speak on behalf of myself, and my father, Joseph J. Roman of Torrington, CT who could not be here tonight, as well as many of our Connecticut resident friends and relatives who are of like mind.

In a moment, I will read the testimony written by my dad. Before I do so, however, I have a question for each of you. If you enact any additional gun control laws, I believe you will be the legislature that starts a new era of increased violent crime in Connecticut. Do you want that on your conscience? Connecticut's violent crime rate will become more like Chicago's and the Connecticut people will simply not stand for it.

The following is the testimony written by my dad:

I am a retired school principal, husband, father and grandfather. Having fought in heavy combat in Italy, France and Germany during World War II, my division witnessed the aftermath of the Nazi concentration camps and more.

I saw first hand what gradual erosion via gun control of what we in the United States know as our Second Amendment rights can do to an economy, a people and a nation.

What I witnessed was horrific devastation beyond belief. Well beyond anything you've seen in the most violent video games or movies. It all began with small seemingly helpful actions like gun magazine size restriction or gun registration and ended with gun confiscation and as a result for millions, death.

In Germany, it happened fast. In 1935, Adolf Hitler said "This year will go down in history. For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration. Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient and the world will follow our lead in the future." Although some anti-gun proponents have attempted to debunk this quotation, full gun registration followed by confiscation and full tyranny is, in fact, what happened. Within a few years, many millions were interred or executed in concentration camps. Jews, Clergy, intellectuals... anyone who opposed the philosophies of that political machine.

Make no mistake. This has happened in many countries since and it can happen here.

Our Second Amendment is intended both for personal protection and for protection against tyranny by government. In this current age of the internet and smart phones and the speed of change that has resulted, I believe that the death and destruction wrought in Germany and throughout much of the world during WW II could happen much more quickly here in our beloved America if Second Amendment rights are eroded.

This is *our* country. Government works for *us*, yet we as individual citizens have a part to play that government can not do. On an individual basis, I call upon each of you who earn a living and pay taxes to identify one “at risk” young person to guide and mentor. They need your help. Many of those who turn to violence and other illegal activity are failing to thrive both in self support financially and in service to community. They have lost their way or have never been shown. Ignorance and fear blind them to the tremendous and enduring satisfactions of paying one’s own way and being of help to others. Our society promotes an insatiable demand for instant gratification and constant entertainment. We must reverse this trend of materialistic consumerism and build a culture of serviceful producerism.

Legislatively, we need no new gun laws. Criminals wouldn’t abide by them anyway. Learn the facts and act accordingly. For example, FBI statistics show that as gun ownership by law abiding citizens has increased, violent crime of all kinds has decreased on a steady trend and is now at an all time low. Instead, let’s put our energies into more treatment and support for the mentally ill and reduce the exposure of our young people to violence in all media, especially video games.

Sincerely,  
Joseph J. Roman  
Torrington, CT

Thank you for your attention to these matters,  
Vincent Roman

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Vincent Roman, President and CEO  
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