

Testimony for CT Gun Control Working Group Hearing 01/28/2013

Submitted by: Vivian Rockwell Nasiatka
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To All Members of the Gun Control Working Group:

The horrific crime committed by a mentally and emotionally deranged young man in Newtown just before Christmas has left all of us with a sense of immediate urgency to act upon keeping this tragedy from ever happening again in our schools, our homes, or any public place in Connecticut.

Emotions of fear, anger, deep loss, and horror may lead to quickly enacting laws that are intended to abate crimes such as what was committed in Newtown. However, most of the currently proposed General Assembly legislation will only leave innocent citizens more vulnerable to these very criminals. We need look no further than Chicago to see that where the strictest firearm laws are in place there is the worst criminal gun violence.

Citizens of Connecticut should feel secure in their homes, places of work, churches, stores, libraries, theaters, parks, hospitals, and especially schools and day care centers. This is one of the reasons for the pistol carry law that we currently have. You as a legislator have trained, armed protection at your place of work, the state capitol and legislative office building. I support that. You however cannot promise and provide the same protection for all the citizens of this state. Until you can, I ask that you stop considering limiting us the right to protect themselves.

After the horrific Petit case of unlawful entry, rape, torture, murder, and arson, you did not enact the Castle Doctrine to increase our ability to keep from having such heinous crimes committed in our homes. Instead, you removed the main deterrent to these crimes—capital punishment. You went further by reducing our state police force in our rural areas, and allowing for early release of violent criminals into our communities so they can prey upon us without the possibility of the penalty of death.

Just imagine for a moment if Adam Lanza were still alive. The state (we the citizens) would be caring for this child killer for the rest of his life. Do we, who you represent have the right to stay alive if faced with an Adam Lanza, or will you take that right away from us while promising that the mentally and emotionally deranged will not use knives, hands, feet, bats or whatever they can get to harm us, the unprotected? We need to be able to protect ourselves and our children in our homes and ourselves in our workplaces or wherever we go. We should not be limited in our “castles” to a one shot or limited/no magazine kind of firearm.

The real issue facing this state is our citizens with serious mental illness. This only should be the focus of your committee. The cause of the gruesome Newtown murders was mental illness. And if you at this moment are absent of the final investigative report on the incident, than wait for that report before enacting any legislation that would inhibit or minimize our ability to protect

ourselves and those we love. Many more lives may be lost in the days and years to come due to impatience. Please do not let this happen on your watch.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Respectfully submitted by a wife and mother of two children,

Vivian Rockwell Nasiatka