

January 28, 2013

BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY TESTIMONY

Re: EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION OF GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

William Farrell – 42 years old, Connecticut resident, retired from business 10 years ago, presently farming, father of two young boys, 20 years married

Sen. Looney, Representative Miner and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address the Emergency Certification of bills that have and will be brought before the legislature in response to the Sandy Hook School massacre.

I am testifying today because I do not want you to take away the guns that I have or restrict my children when they are grown from buying guns that I so desperately hope they will never need to use. I've been given the right to own firearms by the Constitutions of both the United States and the State of Connecticut and I've felt the need to exercise this right for self-defense. I purchased my first firearm in 2009 and want to tell you why.

First, through a direct, acute experience with a pig that had a catastrophic delivery of piglets I realized that it was inhumane for any farmer with livestock not to possess a firearm.

Second, there are no local police where we live. After an attempted break-in at my home in 2010 I purchased my first pistol to carry (with a pistol permit).

Thirdly, in 2011 when I was in the process of purchasing three dairy cows in Hartford County I made a few wrong turns and stopped to ask directions from a group of men. Perhaps I was being recruited or I was just easy to talk with because the leader of this group (gang) gave me more than directions. He told me he had two fully automatic weapons from his Vietnam tour, hid firearms every ten feet in his home, was waiting for the country to break up into five regions, seemed to have no "aims" or "goals" if that were to happen but said the rich people would be his "bitches" and said he would control areas by burning people out of their homes as he did in Vietnam*.

Needless to say that after considering these bits of information I felt insecure and under-equipped and proceeded legally to purchase more firearms, including an AR-15. It has been an act of taking responsibility for me and my family and toward that end I have benefitted from more than 75 hours of hands-on professional defensive firearms training. I practice regularly. My firearms are secured when not on my person. And to ensure that my firearms comply with current State and Federal laws I hired a lawyer to review all my purchases. My hope is that perhaps someday, by the grace of a higher power, I will see these weapons as useless and will no longer feel the need to own them.

In closing, I ask that you neither take away the guns that I have nor make them illegal to acquire. I ask that you not close the next budget gap by taxing my practice ammunition. I ask that you not

arbitrarily restrict the size of my magazines. And though I have offered personal testimony about owning guns here today, I think it extremely unwise to advertise gun ownership in public notices. It is possible that the actions you now take may have the unintended consequences of putting my two young boys in more danger rather than less.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Farrell

**After hearing my story, a friend did some research and found the following report "Extremism in Connecticut: A State Study" written by the Anti-Defamation League, 2011. The link is as follows http://archive.adl.org/learn/ext_us/ct/ext_ct.pdf*