

PA13-221

SB0299

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 29
9742 – 10110**

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote has been properly cast?

If all the members have voted the machine will locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, Senate Substitute Bill 1097 as amended by Senate "B"

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill is passed in concurrence with the
Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 664?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

664 on page 33, favorable report of the Joint
Standing Committee on Public Safety and Security,
Substitute Senate Bill 299, AN ACT CONCERNING
COMMUNICATION AMONG THE STATE POLICE AND LOCAL POLICE
DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTING INCIDENTS AND
CERTAIN OTHER INCIDENTS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's
favorable report and passage of the bill in
concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill
in concurrence with the Senate.

Representative Dargan, you have the floor.

REP. DARGAN (115TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 7178, Senate Amendment "A". May he please call and I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7178, which is previously designated as Senate Amendment Schedule "A"?

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "A", LCO 7178
introduced by Senator Hartley.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization?

Hearing no objection, Representative Dargan, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. DARGAN (115TH):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The amendment before us now replaces the underlying bill which requires DSP used statewide police emergency radio network to notify police departments of shooting incidents involving multiple victims and allow the Commissioner to adopt and implement those regulations.

And I move for its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule "A".

Will you remark on the Amendment? Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative D'Amelio. No.

Will you remark on the amendment?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it and the amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Giegler, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The bill before us will establish a statewide emergency network and it will -- they must develop a written policy -- excuse me -- I think I'm getting laryngitis actually -- concerning the notification

process and there is anticipated to be no cost to that by DSP and I urge my colleagues support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative D'Amelio, you have the floor.

REP. D'AMELIO (71ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill before us. I would like to thank Representative Dargan and Giegler for their work on it, along with the Department of Public Safety.

You know, Madam Speaker, during the Newtown incident it came to our attention through our police chief -- our acting chief in this town of Middlebury Chief Wildman that Middlebury wasn't notified of the incident at all and it had to do because of the way the counties were broken down. Newtown was in Fairfield County and -- and Middlebury was in New Haven County.

So this bill will set up a mechanism to make sure that whenever something as tragic as that ever happens again that all police departments are -- are notified and they could react accordingly.

So I urge adoption.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of the bill as amended.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House? Will members please take their seats; the machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote has been properly cast?

If all the members have voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, Madam Speaker, Substitute Senate Bill 299 as amended by Senate "A"

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill is passed in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 646?

THE CLERK:

On page 31, Calendar 646, favorable report of the SB 465
Joint Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue and
Bonding, AN ACT REQUIRING NEWBORN SCREENING FOR
ADRENOLEUKODYSTROPHY.

That one year in medical school came in handy.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

I move the Joint Committee's favorable report and
passage of the bill in conformance with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

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PART 13
3813 - 4129**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the Clerk would next call from
Calendar Page 5, Calendar 275, Senate Bill 299.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 5, Calendar 275, Substitute for Senate Bill
299, AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG THE STATE
POLICE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE
SHOOTING INCIDENTS AND CERTAIN OTHER INCIDENTS,
Favorable Report of the Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY.
There are Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committees Favorable
Report and passage of the bill, sir.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

There is an amendment. The Clerk is in possession of
LCO 7178. And I ask that he please call the amendment
and I be given leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 7178, Senate "A", offered by Senator Hartley.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, sir.

I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption.

Will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, yes indeed.

This, Mr. President, is a strike-all amendment and it essentially calls for the establishment by October of this year, that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, working in consultation with POST, which is the Police Officers' Standards and Training Council adopt a written policy concerning the type of information to be disseminated in the event of an incident involving numerous victims or casualties.

Mr. President, this -- the genesis of this actually was the tragic day in December that befell the community of Newtown and the state of Connecticut and it then became apparent, initially that the surrounding communities found out about this horrific incident by virtue of sometimes the media and, in other instances, just by calls from neighboring police departments. The -- the problem being that they, one, had to, especially those being proximate to the town where the incident was going on, make decisions about their own safety and security in their community, i.e., the lock down of schools and the like. And --

and therefore, there came forward to Senator Kane, myself, and Representative D'Amelio, from the Police Chief in Middlebury that we needed some defined process.

And therein is the amendment that you see before us, which is a strike all and has been the result of the work of all the parties involved.

And I move adoption, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I too rise in favor of the amendment and, of course, on the underlying bill. So I'll speak once.

I want to thank Senator Hartley for her leadership on the Public Safety Committee.

As she stated, this legislation, this idea, if you will, came to myself, Senator Hartley, and Representative D'Amelio from a Police Chief in one of the towns that we represent. And on the tragic day of December 14th, our police chief found out about the happenings through another officer who happened to just inadvertently ask the question, are you in Newtown? And he said, well what do you mean, what are you talking about?

So what this bill does, rather than the Police Chiefs in your community or my community or throughout the 36 districts we have here in the Senate, find out about these occurrences through Twitter or the news or -- or just an inadvertent phone call, this would provide a system where the department would put out an alert to each and every one of the towns, so they can make a determination on their own as to whether to respond in their own actions as to whether they want to lock down schools or provide public safety for their own towns and communities.

So I think this is a great bill. It goes a long way in the form of communication and working together throughout the public safety arena in the state of Connecticut.

And I ask, along with Senator Hartley, the support of the Chamber.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Hartley for bringing the bill forward and also, Senator Kane for testifying with this Police Chief at the Public Safety Hearing.

And I just have one question for legislative intent.

Through you, Mr. President, to the proponent of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, to Senator Hartley.

Subsection B of Section 1 says that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, basically the State Police, will join with the Police Officers' Standards and Training Council, basically the municipal police departments, to develop a written policy. And as a result of that written policy, whatever happens in Subsection A, they'll follow the guidelines of the written policy to the best of their ability.

Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And through you, to Senator Witkos.

Thank you for your question. I think it's important to elucidate the intention of this if it isn't exactly apparent. And that is correct. That they shall follow the policy that is developed collaboratively, in the event of such circumstances. We hope that there will not be, but the policy hopefully will be in existence by then.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I also urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark?

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I do support the amendment. I do have one question.

In a prior experience, I was involved with a State-Wide Incident Management Task Force and this was one of the major issues that we dealt with. In this whole idea of communication, there's no mention, again, of the media. The media can be very instrumental and also it can be very disorientating at a crime scene. And I would hope that some of that discussion might involve -- there is a film, in fact, a thing done by State Police called "Hats." And it defines the different roles of different people and focuses a lot on the media. They can be very helpful, but again, they can be in the way.

The question I have is that through some of these emergencies we've seen across the street here, they have the ability to reach every police department immediately. I would assume the system is in place. It's a question of having enough common sense, I guess, to notify people what's going on so they know and can be prepared.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, to Senator Cassano.

Thank you for your question.

Indeed, the infrastructure is in place and that was not delineated in the bill as you see it, because it is being left to the work of the DEEPP, in conjunction with POST to work this out specifically, but there -- there is ample infrastructure, which can be accessed. There are, in fact, different means by which to access, so we wanted to make sure that there was flexibility because they are the experts in these instances and it should be determined by them, as opposed to us mandating it to them.

And thank you very much for your commentary with regard to media. We did have these conversations, actually, in the Committee and hope that our message is resounding throughout this community.

Thank you, Senator Cassano.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you.

And that clarifies it. We'll have a better system, but no additional cost and that's great.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment?

If not, I'll try --

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Not to ask any questions, but just to commend the good Chair of the Public Safety Committee for bringing this forward.

I -- I think I've stated on other bills that the Police Chief up in Enfield, Chief Carl Sferrazza, has been actively engaged in trying to work cooperatively with surrounding towns regarding active shooter scenarios. Even going so far as to actually offer corporations within the town to try to work with them if they would help fund the project so that the officers in town would know if there's an active shooter in a larger corporate complex. So I think bringing the State Police and the Police Officers'

Standards and Training Council together and then allowing at the end of the day local police chiefs to make their own determination, based upon the scenario is the right way to go.

And I think this is a very well-thought-out proposal and it addresses, very unfortunately, situations that seem to be cropping up throughout our nation more often than we would want, but certainly with something that we have enough notice now that we should be prepared for.

So I commend Senator Hartley on her efforts and everybody else who participated. Senator Kane, Senator Witkos, and all the others who were involved.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment?

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those opposed, nay.

SENATORS:

Nay.

THE CHAIR:

The ayes have it.

Senate "A" is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If there is no objection, I would request that this be added to the Consent Calendar, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objections, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If the Clerk would call as the next two items.

First Calendar Page 43, Calendar 388, Senate Bill 1096.

To be followed by Calendar Page 22, Calendar 580, House Bill 6623.

Both from the Education Committee.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 43, Calendar 388, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 1096, AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNANCE OF THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER, Favorable Report of the Committee on EDUCATION. There are Amendments.

Oh -- I apologize.

SENATOR LOONEY:

On the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

If there's no objection, it will be placed on the
Consent Calendar.

I apologize.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would now list the items
on the Second Consent Calendar so that we might move
to a vote on that Second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 5, Calendar 275, Senate Bill 299.

On Page 7, Calendar 356, House Bill 6253.

Page 15, Calendar 518, House Bill 6316.

And Page 18, Calendar 555, House Bill 5836.

On Page 21, Calendar 579, House Bill 6358.

Page 40, Calendar 265, Senate Bill 191.✓

Page 41, Calendar 305, Senate Bill 1081.

And on Page 43, Calendar 388, Senate Bill 1096.

And Page 45, Calendar 553, House Bill 5250.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be open for this Second Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on today's Second Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Do me a favor. Call it one more time now, so we can get them in here faster. Thank you.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call ordered in the Senate on the Second Consent Calendar of the day. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

All members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk will you call the last tally of the night.

THE CLERK:

On the Second Consent Calendar of the day.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney, do you have some good news for us, sir?

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, just before moving for adjournment, we have a couple of other just Calendar items. One item on the foot of the Calendar.

Madam President, Calendar Page 49, Calendar 240, Senate Bill 849. I would move to remove that item from the foot and just mark it passed, retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also, Madam President, other item on the foot of the Calendar, Calendar 182, Senate Bill 1000. Would move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it passed, retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you.

Madam President, the other items previously marked go for this evening, should now be marked passed, retaining their place on the Calendar. We hope to begin with those items early tomorrow.

And I would yield the floor now for Members for announcements of Committee Meetings or other Points of Personal Privilege.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 3
750 - 1091**

2013

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jmf/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
COMMITTEE

March 14, 2013
10:00 A.M.

Thank you once again, Jim, for being with us and your written testimony.

I'd like to invite Senator Kane. And Senator Kane you have someone testifying with you and that is Chief Wildman?

SENATOR KANE: I do.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, sir.

SENATOR KANE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Giegler, I do have with me Chief Richard Wildman of the Middlebury Police Department. If you will indulge me, I'd prefer that he give our testimony on Senate Bill 299. As Legislators, we like to think that all the good ideas are ours, and that's not necessarily true. The good ideas for legislation actually come from people like Chief Wildman who work on a daily basis with the type of issues that you see here especially in the Public Safety. So if you will allow me -- allow Chief Wildman to speak.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Chief.

RICHARD WILDMAN: Good morning. My name is Rich Wildman and I am currently the Acting Chief for the Town of Middlebury. I've been in law enforcement since January of 1979. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Public Safety and Security Committee this morning on proposed Bill 299.

With many cuts in law enforcement over the past few y ears, many agencies have to do with less.

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Mutual aid is relied on more and more for getting additional resources and manpower to deal with emergency situations. Early notification and good communications are a must in these times.

Over the past several years police agencies in Connecticut have made improvements to their radio systems. However, these improvements came with downfalls. A simply \$100 scanner to monitor what is going on in your neighboring community or the highway that runs through your community is a thing of the past due to digital encryption. Many agencies rely on a single radio frequency, commonly referred to as hotlines. These designated hotlines are usually set up by county to pass on information to the State Police or your neighboring community within the county.

Since 9/11, the State of Connecticut through grants and other funding provided the Connecticut State Police Emergency Radio Network, commonly referred to as CSPERN. All police departments including the State were given the equipment to communicate on this frequency. This is a sample of the communication base stations that were given to all the police departments in Connecticut.

Proposed Bill 299 would require early notification to all law enforcement agencies throughout Connecticut by the Connecticut Message Center via tone alerts sent out on CSPERN as soon as they learn of some type of active shooting incident or other dangerous situation affecting law enforcement in the State of Connecticut. The alert would contain

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the necessary information to law enforcement so that a proper response can be made to the emergency. Now with this information the chiefs of police can make the decision to send resources, take measures to safeguard their own community, and to harden targets in their community such as schools or heavy populated areas.

On December 14, 2012, the tragedy in Newtown was occurring about ten miles from the Town of Middlebury. Newtown is located in Fairfield County while Middlebury is located in New Haven County, two separate hotline systems. It wasn't until 45 minutes after the fact that I was notified by a friend also in law enforcement about this incident. Many other law enforcement agencies only learned about the incident by way of the media. This is totally unacceptable. When I called the regional school district to go into lockdown, I found that the lockdown was being implemented already thanks to the media.

I know that the Legislature is hard at work on budgetary issues, so I bring good news. The radio system already exists and it wouldn't cost a dime to implement a notification system like this. Many law enforcement agencies over the years have been given additional grants to add CSPERN radios to their patrol cars and portable radios to their inventory. These are the extra things added to the inventories.

I was approached by several chiefs recently who advised me back in 2010, most of the chiefs were sent important alerts to their iPhones by an alert system. As far as I know, this

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notification system no longer exists, however, most agree that the Connecticut Message Center was responsible for these alerts. With the CSPERN alert system in place, it would be up to each chief of police to address the policies for monitoring the CSPERN frequency. In addition, they will have the comfort of knowing that there is a two-way communication system in place to alert their departments to any emergency situation that is going on anywhere in the state. With this information, police chiefs can make necessary adjustments quickly on public safety in their own communities and have one frequency they can rely on to communicate. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Senator Kane. And thank you, Chief Wildman. And I appreciate your creativity here. It is a bit disarming to hear about the sequence of events on December 14 with regard to notification. What is the protocol throughout the state in an instance like this? Is there a state protocol or is it district by district or PD by PD?

RICHARD WILDMAN: I don't think there's a protocol in writing. I think most chiefs of police react to what the situation is. If it's in a neighboring community, they're going to probably send resources from what they have available right to that community. There's really nothing set in law that requires these departments to take action. But I think with early notification, it's key here to let everybody know what's going on and that as a chief I could decide whether to send resources or not.

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10:00 A.M.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Chief, so if I understand you, as a result of 9/11 we have the benefit of an infrastructure known as CSPERN. And so what would that require though, let's just talk about Middlebury Police Department, you would have to then purchase radios for every car or does this -- they're already outfitted?

RICHARD WILDMAN: I already -- I'm already outfitted. We have the base radio and we also have radios in our police cruisers and we also have portable radios.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Then does that suggest that every other police department has the same infrastructure and equipment?

RICHARD WILDMAN: Yes. Every police department was given the base radio. In the Naugatuck Valley, we were given additional funding to buy radios like this, the portables, for our inventories through additional funding. I'm not sure what's going on in Norwich, but I know Norwich also has the CSPERN radio system.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So then we know everyone at least has the base radio, they may not have the individual handsets for the patrol cars is what we're saying?

RICHARD WILDMAN: The State Police has the capability in their cars to have CSPERN frequencies. Due to other events that occur in the Town of Middlebury, we use the CSPERN frequency to handle traffic control and the triathlon that goes through 11 towns, on this frequency.

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SENATOR HARTLEY: I guess I'm a little stunned that we don't have some uniform protocol in the unlikely event such as what we experienced in December. And if we can better use this system, I would say that it's about time. Thanks for this really important input.

Questions from Committee members?

Chairman Dargan.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Senator. Thank you, Chief, for being here today. I know after 9/11 the commission talked about interoperability between different agencies and radio communications. And I know -- since that time I know the State anyways through the Department of Homeland Security (inaudible) has come together with five different regions to share communications and first responders, referencing mutual aid in some cases. And most communities do have mutual aid whether it's career or volunteer fire service and/or police.

And I know each one of those regions does have a director, because different parts of the state although a small state might need different assets at different times depending on what that specific issue is. And so I'm just a little concerned because I thought that since we received federal monies that every community is on one wavelength with a radio communication that was given out through emergency management and Homeland Security. And maybe just refresh my memory, maybe I'm not right on that.

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RICHARD WILDMAN: The -- we currently have CSPERN and we also have ITAC channels. The ITAC channel is mostly designated to operate a particular scene, to create operability for everyone. What I'm looking at with the proposed bill is an alert system to let everybody know what's going on. And I think the CSPERN system, because it -- everybody has it, it's the way to go. But we do have other channels available in this same base station that you have in front of you for that ITAC channels also -- for that operability.

REP. DARGAN: Okay. Thank you very much.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS: Thank you. Welcome, Chief. Just so I'm clear on this, you have the equipment, everyone has the equipment, you're really researching for a policy in order to unite people together so that this does not happen, the 40 minute -- 45 minute delay, is that correct?

RICHARD WILDMAN: That is correct.

REP. BOUKUS: Okay. So you're asking us to come up with a policy so that it would be statewide?

RICHARD WILDMAN: That is correct.

REP. BOUKUS: All right. I have your testimony, but I also have a note that says attachments. Are those the two pictures that you're showing?

RICHARD WILDMAN: The pictures, yeah. We can make sure -- we'll make copies for the members of

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the Committee.

REP. BOUKUS: Okay. Thank you so much.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Representative Boukus.

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you, and good morning, Chief. Just a quick question, so under the bill it would require the community that's dealing with the event to notify the State and then the State would in turn notify the other communities in the state. Is that how you see it happening?

RICHARD WILDMAN: The way it works right now is the -- the Connecticut Message Center -- any request from emergency services from the State Police usually goes through the Message Center. If you need the bomb squad, the SWAT team, the dive team, it goes through that communication center. They also monitor important missing persons, civil alerts, Amber alerts, that also goes through the message center. So the message center would -- once they found out something was going on, it would get that notification out right away.

SENATOR WITKOS: And has the Connecticut Police Chiefs weighed in on this proposal?

RICHARD WILDMAN: I have not approached the Connecticut Chiefs of Police.

SENATOR WITKOS: Well, I think it's a valid and well-intentioned policy, I do have some concerns in that especially if it's going

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statewide that you're going to have every community trying to contact the jurisdiction in which the emergency is happening. And one can only imagine the dispatcher getting inundated with phone calls and trying to -- to basically do some traffic control on -- with all the various services that are coming into that town.

And I just want to make sure that we're not inundating the community that's -- say if something happened in Middlebury and you reached out -- you had your dispatcher reach out to somebody at the -- at the center, and then they went and contacted the state police, and then folks would start calling in. I don't want them calling Middlebury and saying, hey, what do you need, what's going on, because you're handling the emergency right then and there and you don't have time to, I would imagine, to coordinated with state agencies or police departments across the state. How do you envision that working out logistically?

RICHARD WILDMAN: I think that the best way to handle a situation like that is to -- is to dump mutual aid resources into a nearby community. For myself being in Middlebury, I could easy ask Naugatuck to take care of all of the mutual aid resources and coordinate that event. I'm looking from a notification standpoint than actually coordinating things. I would be looking at, you know, banging out an ITAC channel just to coordinate the mutual aid efforts.

But to get the notifications out to the communities, if something was happening in

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Danbury and I'm the police chief in Norwich, maybe it's not really going to affect me. But if I'm the chief in Bethel, I want to know about something. I want to know how to take concerns. And I think the notification is the most important part.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Senator Witkos. And I appreciate your question. I was interpreting it as really the front end, when the incidence happens, getting the information out to everyone. I think the second step on this is then how those, in -- particularly in neighboring communities, respond to that information with regard to things such as assistance and so forth. But as I understand this, it's the notification. And you speak particular to your situation on the 14th when you found out via the media.

RICHARD WILDMAN: Correct.

SENATOR HARTLEY: It seems like something is wrong with that.

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just like other members of the Committee, I was a little surprised so your testimony is very welcome because I thought we already had this addressed. But in your testimony you mention that, you know, Middlebury is in Fairfield County and -- rather Newtown is Fairfield County, you're in New Haven County. Is that why you weren't notified

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because of the -- even though you were close in miles?

RICHARD WILDMAN: We're close, ten miles, but different counties. So we have two existing hotline systems for police to communicate which are kind of outdated.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Right.

RICHARD WILDMAN: And, you know, I mean, for instance, Southbury is right next door to Newtown, again two separate counties. So the CSPERN system was intended for a statewide operability for all police agencies to be on one frequency.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Well, I appreciate you coming up because I don't think the Committee realized that and we ought to straighten it out. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Senator Guglielmo.

Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning to you, Chief Wildman, and thank you for your testimony this morning. I have one question, when would this really be enacted? It has to be like a major event, right? It's not just every single call or a distress call from an individual in the town?

RICHARD WILDMAN: Right. It would be more or less set up for emergency situations where law enforcement is stretched -- stressed to the max. It could be, you know, dangerous

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criminals, you know, in some kind of foot pursuit where you want to let the agencies around your community know you're chasing a couple people. It could be used for Amber alerts, it could be used for Silver alerts, it could be used for incidences where sometimes we have endangered people who make threats to schools or make threats to airlines or whatever. That information could be put out on the CSPERN radio so everybody knows what's going on.

REP. D'AMELIO: Is the procedure now to contact the base, like the state troop base whenever, you know, one of the what you just described occurs? Is that procedure now?

RICHARD WILDMAN: We would usually pick up the phone or try to -- or contact the troop on the CSPERN radio and let them know what's going on. What I'm asking for is more or less a general after they get the information, put out that alert, let everybody know what's going on. Sometimes in law enforcement we get into incidents which drag on for many hours, 24, 36 hours. So maybe a community five towns away may not respond to the incident immediately, but maybe 24 hours from now they may want to be available to send maybe a couple officers in to assist. But the notification I think is key.

REP. D'AMELIO: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Representative.

Further questions?

If not, Senator Kane, Chief Wildman, thanks

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very much for being with us and bringing this to our attention.

RICHARD WILDMAN: Thank you very much.

SENATOR HARTLEY: I would like to invite Mike Butler, our Fire Commissioner in Killingworth, please. Good morning, Mike.

MICHAEL BUTLER: Thank you, Senator. Good morning, everybody. I speak for myself, my family, and for the over 4,000 members of CCDL, many of whom are here today. And I'm not only a member of the public safety community, I'm also a professional firearms safety educator. I teach people gun safety. And it's amazing what some -- some of the proponents of some of the restrictive bills I see call gun safety because none of them really do a thing to promote safety.

SB 1076

They will tell you that nobody needs so-called assault weapons, which by the way is nothing but a political label. What is the difference between a ranch rifle in the top photo and the so-called assault weapon on the bottom? Nothing except perception. These two guns are identical. Both semiautomatic, both fire one bullet at a time each time the trigger is squeezed. They are the same rifle wearing different clothing. The one on the bottom is more menacing looking and that's why these bans on so-called military style guns are all about style, labels, perceptions. But it's deception. Banning a gun because of what it looks like will not make anybody safer.

What nobody needs is new bans on perfectly

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And so at this time we have been informed that there are some individuals who have a plane to make and so being Public Safety Committee, we try to accommodate all people at all times.

So we would like to Anna Kopperud and John Hohenwarter to testimony in hopes that they can make their flight. Good morning.

ANNA KOPPERUD: Good morning. Thank you so much for being so accommodating.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Well, you won't think so when the three minute bell rings, but go ahead.

ANNA KOPPERUD: Understood. Good morning, everyone. Madam Chairman, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the array of bills that are before us today. My name is Anna Kopperud, I am the Connecticut State Liaison for the National Rifle Association. Sitting next to me is my colleague, John Hohenwarter, who is also a State Liaison for the NRA. It is an honor to be here representing tens of thousands of NRA members in this state as well as all law abiding gun owners.

(HB6162) (HB6251)
(HB6595) (HB6598)
(SB299) (SB505)
(SB506) (SB710)
(SB897) (SB1071)
(SB1076)

I've been coming up here now for a couple of months. I appreciate the Constitution state, the opportunity to have made some very good friends in this building. And most importantly to meet more amazing members of the NRA than I thought possible. This past week a group of strong partner organizations held a lobby day here in this building. I'm sure that most of you may have had an opportunity to meet with your constituents when they were here on Monday. You met with grandmothers,

grandfathers, fathers, mothers, daughters, and sons. We are family, we are patriotic, and we are law abiding individuals who are concerned about where this debate is headed.

The event left a strong impact as to how much support there is in this state for protecting the Second Amendment, and I would like to thank everyone who came to testify today as we all know how difficult it is to take two days off from work in a given week. I'd also like to add that on Monday we had thousands of pro-gun people here in opposition to many of these proposals. Yesterday there was a counter-protest with only a handful of people. I think this tells you where the passion is on this issue.

While we are preparing detailed comments to address some of these bills to be submitted later, I believe you may have in front of you some comments from our organization that are relative to the message that we have been trying to get to resonate in the state over the past few months. These comments don't deal directly with the legislation before the Committee today, but use a snapshot of data on low crime rates in Connecticut to highlight that many of the measures being considered today are not the appropriate focus.

We strongly believe that good policies regarding securing our schools and fixing our broken mental health system are the appropriate focus of the State's resources. Over the last several months proposals brought forth by the Governor's Office, the Legislative Commission, and a plethora of bills being introduced

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dealing with numerous subject matters have been put forth in the aftermath of Sandy Hook. Because of that, as I'm sure that you as members of the Committee know, there has been a lot of confusion that only about these various proposals but about their direction as well.

Over the last few months I have had numerous meetings with Legislators about getting involved, stepping up, and acknowledging that this is all going in the wrong direction from where the discourse originally started. And quite frankly, there are a lot of Legislators that I've been meeting with on both sides that agree with this. Clearly Connecticut has as many gun laws as almost any state in the Union and is ranked by an anti-gun group as one of the most restrictive states as they relate to firearms laws. Saying that, I think that one can safely acknowledge that Connecticut doesn't need more gun laws, not 5 more, not 20 more, which won't stop the kinds of crime that folks are trying to address.

Criminals by nature don't follow the law and the more laws you add to the books, the more law abiding gun owners you affect. Criminals will just keep on doing what they do, breaking the law. I would ask that as this debate continues, please keep an open mind. I mean let's face it, some of these proposals fall just short of melting down all the guns in the state. Massachusetts experimented with similar legislation in the late 90s and they didn't see a reduction in crime. The only thing they saw was an increase of residents leaving that state. You would lose lots of good people here in Connecticut, good companies, good jobs, and

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Connecticut needs to set itself apart.

Are we going to follow in New York's footsteps? Are we going to be a state of knee-jerk reactions that aren't effective or appropriate? That's the question. I know a few of you already have preconceived notions of where this debate should go, whether right or wrong. But I'm here today to tell you that our association will continue to work with this Committee and with both Chambers to help facilitate effective policy -- effective policymaking to keep our families, your families, and the State of Connecticut safe without infringing on the rights of law abiding individuals. With that, I don't want to take anymore of your time.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you. Thank you, Anna. And I thank you for your testimony. And, yes, indeed we've had these conversations about having everybody at the table and participating. That's the only way I think we get to a right, hopefully, common sense place.

John, did you have comments?

JOHN HOHENWARTER: No, I think Anna summed it up. I'm new to this state, I came in here about a month ago. And I had some conversations not only with members of the Committee but members outside of the Committee. And I think she summed it up, we're trying to redirect the debate. It seems like there's been some discourse that has gotten off track from the original debate which was put together to take a look at school security, take a look at mental health services, and take a look at some of the gun laws that we have here.

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And I -- from my conversation with a number of members here in Connecticut, it seems like there's less and less focus on the mental health services side, on the school security side, because maybe they're not as sexy, they cost a lot of money, where are we going to come up with the money. You're in the process of trying to balance the budget where you're trying to find money. So it's kind of starting to shift now. Well, let's just throw every gun bill that we ever thought of on the table. So we've been trying, I think with some success, trying to refocus, let's get back to the -- the original discourse that started several months ago.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, John.

Questions from Committee members?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Anna and John. I haven't had the pleasure of meeting either of you or speaking with either of you yet. I did serve on the Gun Safety Working Group Task Force and I know that -- I can't find your testimony, we have quite a bit given to us today, but from your verbal testimony it sounds like you're entering the position of we shouldn't be doing anything, we have enough on the books.

And I will defer to the fact that I believe during the working group we had several suggestions that had bipartisan support dealing with access and control of firearms and keeping

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them out of the hands of folks that shouldn't have them. And I didn't hear that that -- any of those things were acceptable to the NRA. And I'd like you to comment on that, if you would, if you're familiar with the proposal that I'm talking about.

JOHN HOHENWARTER: Senator, members of the Committee, I'd be happy to comment. I'm not here today to say no to everything that has been put forth. But to be quite honest with you, there's been so many bills that have been introduced I don't even know what's out there anymore. You had the Governor introducing his proposal, you had the Commission and Task Force introducing their proposals, we have, what hundreds of other bills, so, you know, we're trying to focus on particularly looking at the bills today trying to focus on these bills.

But I'll give you an example. On the universal background check there's a lot of people all over the board on universal background checks.

SENATOR WITKOS: But where are -- where are you? I know Legislators are all over the board, but what are you?

JOHN HOHENWARTER: We're -- let's put it this way, universal background checks in this state, is it going to do any good to catch a bad guy? Probably not because you have the Governor on one hand that's calling for universal background checks, but on the other hand he's cutting the budget for the department that conducts those background checks. In fact, I have a letter they sent out to the dealers indicating that to expect delays in background

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checks.

Now how can you have a Governor who is calling for universal background checks which are going to create more work, more costs, how much I don't know. I mean obviously there's going to have to be a fiscal note put on the bill, but we're talking about spending more money where he's talking about cutting money. And you're focusing on a group of firearms that are used in between one to two percent of the crimes. Now if I was an economist, I would say that's probably a pretty bad investment. I would say take that maybe three-quarters of a million dollars in extra funding that you're going to have to spend, put it to the Gun Violence Task Force which the Governor cut funding for. He cut the funding on the Gun Violence Task Force to go out and catch bad guys. Why not fund that properly? And, in fact, the funding that was put there was --

SENATOR WITKOS: I'd like you to focus your testimony on the provisions of the subject matter at hand, not on our -- our state budget. Okay. And I also served on the School Safety Working Group. This Committee has received so many more folks coming before the Committee to testify, emails, phone calls, written testimony, and they're very particular. And the purpose of today's, from my gathering, today's hearing is a focus on these bills. But there are also so many other concepts that were raised through the working group. And you're sitting before me saying that we're not focusing on the right things, we should be focusing on school safety, mental health. But your expertise is what we're talking about

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today and that's what I wanted to get in -- some answers from you as to what do you propose under your expertise area that we can do in the State of Connecticut other than saying we don't any, we have too much already.

JOHN HOHENWARTER: Senator, members of the Committee, well, I think number one, I think going back to what I said earlier, I think since this debate has opened up beyond the school security, mental health issue, let's take a look at what can we do to catch bad guys. I think number one is to obviously let's get the Gun Violence Task Force up and running, maybe target two cities here, you know, in the state.

I'll give you an example. Back in 2006 the Pennsylvania Legislature appropriated \$5 million worth of funding to help Philadelphia go after straw purchasers. And the program was conducted with the State's Attorney General, the Philadelphia Police Department, and it's been very successful. To date they have actually arrested 1,200 people, they have prosecuted and put behind bars over 400 people, and they've gotten over 1,000 firearms off the streets.

SENATOR WITKOS: And that was one of the proposals in the Working Group was attacking straw purchasers. So are you coming out in support of that?

JOHN HOHENWARTER: Absolutely. And I know there's thoughts about how to, you know, raise penalties to go after these guys which is all good. But keep in mind too, when you are

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raising the penalties, you have to make sure that -- that they're giving obviously the time associated with those penalties. And quite often, and not only in this state, but it's around the country, one of the first things to get plea bargained out when someone is brought into a DA's office would be the firearm charge because they are overworked, there's a lot of bad guys out there, they'd rather do a quick settlement and say look, we'll throw out the firearm charge and give you two to four and everybody goes on their way. So that's usually one of the first things that are plea bargained out.

In fact, I think you should actually take a look at that as it affects the other bill that you were discussing which was the Registry of Violent Firearm Offenders because I think you're going to find a lot of the individuals that are violent firearm offenders aren't going to be listed because that firearm charge is going to be plea bargained out. So you should keep that in mind during the -- during the debate. But those types of programs, obviously, are going to work, you know, they work in other states, they'll work here in Connecticut.

SENATOR WITKOS: You didn't really answer the question that I was hoping you would expand upon. But thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yes, thank you, Senator Witkos.

Representative Guglielmo to be followed by
Representative Rovero to be followed by
Representative Mikutel.

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REP. GUGLIELMO: Good morning. Yeah, I know or I think I know that you favor the mandatory sentencing of straw purchases.

JOHN HOHENWARTER: Absolutely.

REP. GUGLIELMO: Okay. See I think that would be very effective. To be a straw purchaser, you have to have a clean record obviously. I can't imagine someone with a clean record not being afraid to go -- go to jail for two, three, whatever we set the mandatory sentencing of. And I assume that the way some of this works is somebody, like in Upstate New York, where the young woman bought the Bushmaster for the felon who killed two volunteer firefighters. I'm sure that her neighbor, I guess he was a neighbor, offered her money to do that.

So now if you're talking, this has turned out more to be a statement than a question, but if she's offered \$500 to do this, she might take it. But if she's offered \$500 and she knows that she's going to absolutely, positively spend two years in jail if she gets caught, I think that makes it a much tougher decision. I think those are the kind of things that we need to emphasize. Also the Gun Trafficking Task Force, that worked here in Connecticut. And we reduced it because of budget reasons. That was a coordination between local police, state police, federal officials, Coast Guard. And that got guns off the street from people who illegally had them. And that's what I'm assuming we're looking for here. But that costs money.

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So I'd just like your comments on that. And the other thing too, the violent -- the early release of violent criminals, absolutely absurd proposal that -- that we passed here in this Legislature, signed by the Governor. I know personally of two murders that have been committed by these early released people, and I'm sure there are more.

We had a victim's advocate, Michelle Cruz, sitting where you're sitting, had a report that was very impressive. I'm not on the Judiciary Committee, but I came up for that hearing just to listen to her. And her charge is to speak for victims and their families. And she did that. In fact, I told my daughters who are about the same age that they should watch this if it's on C-SPAN or the local station because this is somebody with real courage who stood up here and her reward for that was to be replaced. She's no longer the victim's advocate in the State of Connecticut.

So I guess we got to focus, in my opinion, and stop this dance because the dance is an insult to the people in Newtown, in my opinion. Because if we walk out of here and do some cosmetic thing like we always do and then tell people we solved a problem, shame on us. Don't clap because we don't -- the Chairlady and we have the rules here and I want everybody to abide. We don't clap, but we don't boo. There will be a lot of reason for both today. But I think the, you know, that's where we have to focus. We have to have a little common sense. And this Legislature has not exactly been the home of common sense in my 21 years here. And it's very frustrating because we know that this

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cannot be solved totally because you can't legislate crazy.

There are some people who are just not wired right and to think that those of us who have a different opinion are not compassionate is -- it's offensive to me because I'm compassionate the same as everybody. I have three grandchildren in Connecticut elementary schools. So if you think that I thought that any of these things that were proposed by the Governor would work and help save those -- protect those three grandkids of mine or the other young ones in school I wouldn't do it, that's not correct.

I would do it and I would make every gun owner in Connecticut mad, but I wouldn't care, if they worked but they don't work. So I'm just trying to -- I know I'm off course and I appreciate the latitude that the Chair has given me and I just want to thank you both for coming.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Senator Common Sense.

I would like to now call on Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Anna and John, for coming to testify today. I just want to say one thing to you and to anybody else that is going to testify today, on my behalf, that I'm sitting here listening to testimony because I'm interested in taking away guns from any law abiding citizens. But on the other hand, I'm going to sit here most of the day and listen to testimony on both sides.

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Because, to be honest with you, where I don't want to take away guns from any legal abiding citizen, I don't want to see any more deaths in the State of Connecticut or anywhere -- anyplace else if we can help it.

So I want you to realize, and to anybody else that's out there because somebody is always grabbing you and saying you should do this, you should do that, I'm just sitting here, don't want to take away your guns. But on the other hand if there's a way that we can save someone's life, I want to sit here and say that's what I'm interested in. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Representative Rovero.

Representative Mikutel.

REP. MIKUTEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I probably know your opinion on this, but I want you to say it for the record. I'm assuming you are familiar with proposed Bill 1076, do you consider that bill an overreach and an infringement on the rights of citizens under the Second Amendment?

JOHN HOHENWARTER: Representative, members of the Committee, that's an easy answer, yes. There's obviously a lot of provisions in that bill, and I do. I said the answer to that question is very simple, yes, I do. I think it's overreaching and it's going to have no impact as far as reducing crime in this state. And I, well, take a look around you, take a look outside, I think that bill in itself is for a large part why this building is filled.

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personal decision to arrive at a -- to conclude that that's what I needed to defend my family with. I don't want to be in that situation again where I am in a situation where I might be risking my family's life because I just have a weapon that I don't deem compatible to defend my family with. That -- thus ends my statement.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Joe, thanks for being here, thanks for your service in the military. Do we have questions from Committee members? Thanks very much for your testimony.

JOE CYR: And, thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Chris Lemos. What? Yes, we are on number 14. Yes, Chris?

CHRIS LEMOS: Good afternoon. My name is Chris Lemos, I'm a resident of Stratford. I'm also a firearms instructor, a range safety officer and I'm also an executive member of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. I'm here in opposition to most of the bills today.

SB 505 SB 710
SB 1071 HB 6162

Let's start with S.B. 1076. That bill does absolutely nothing to actually reduce gun violence and it's so insidious I'm sure -- I know most of the people have been talking about this already, so I'm going to move on. Obviously, I strongly oppose that one.

S.B. 299, that's the communication between police departments. My issue with this bill is it should be covering all mass casualty events, not just active shooter events. It really doesn't matter if it's a shooter, a bomb, a major fire -- all the departments should have

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communication between them. It shouldn't just be because of an active shooter. So, that needs some work.

S.B. 505, is the minimum age to purchase a rifle or a long gun. People aged 18 to 21 are old enough and responsible enough to join the military, they're old enough to go into law enforcement and handle real assault rifles. They're old enough and responsible enough to vote for you, the people who make the laws and are old enough to be liable for their actions if they break those laws. Why shouldn't they be allowed to own a hunting rifle or a target rifle or a shotgun?

S.B. 710, permit for gun shows, that bill is unnecessary and arbitrary. The gun shows must already adhere to local zoning insurance regulations for public events as well as state and federal firearm laws. The bill adds an undefined and subjective standard of suitability. There's 169 towns in Connecticut, that's 169 different definitions of suitable. Not needed.

S.B. 1071, is additional funding for criminals of injuries compensation fund. This bill unfairly taxes the one segment of industry, one segment of industry that's already taxed on multiple levels. Will we also be taxing knife patent and automobile manufacturers and dealers? The firearms industry directly and indirectly employs and supports a large number of residents. You've heard from the manufacturers and some of the employees. Do we really want to enact yet another reason to drive those jobs out of Connecticut? I believe that imposes a \$25 tax or a \$10 tax on every

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seat with you, stays that way.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Representative Mikutel if you have
-- thanks so very much for being with us today,
Chris.

CHRIS DUFFY: Thank you for allowing me to speak.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yeah, absolutely. Leonard
Benedetto, followed by Michael Vasil, followed
by Scott Wilson, so you kind of queue up.

LEONARD BENEDETTO: Good afternoon everybody.
Senator Hartley, all the member of the Public
Safety and Security Committee, my name is
Leonard Benedetto. I've testified in front of
you in the past and some of you might remember
me, some of you might not. I'm a Stratford
resident, a founding member of CCDL, an
organization with more than 4,000 members and
growing daily, I'm also the Vice President of
the organization, and, as our Governor put it
the other day, I am the fringe of the fringe
and I'm proud of it. Me and my 3,000 other
friends who were here on Monday, we're the
fringe of the fringe.

I'm here to testify in opposition of S.B. 505,
S.B. 506, S.B. 1076 and H.B. 6251 and I'm also
here in support of S.B. 299, only as one of my
colleagues already stated, it doesn't go far
enough because since this is, I suppose the
"gun control hearing" or the first of many, it
deals with just strictly firearm issues rather
than just saying, hey this is a really good
system, if we've got it up and running almost
already and it's free, why don't we use it for
everything. Makes sense to me.

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I'd also like to state that when I testified here in January before the gun violence prevention working group, I pleaded with that Committee that night to please let us have public hearings, so I would like to say thank you very much to all of you for allowing that because at that point in time, I was fearful that our rights to be actually heard and have a dialogue which happens here today and has been going on, was going to be waived and we weren't going to get to be heard because the testifying that I did in January and the thousands of us that did, there was no dialogue. It was everybody got up, had their three minutes and then we were moved on like cattle.

Well, I'm glad today that as soon as you folks started asking questions, I really appreciate that. And, even if you don't ask me anything, I'm still happy that we're here and we're discussing this. So, thank you very much.

But, I'd also like to say that it's really a shame that the first hearing that we're having happens to deal with nothing but guns on the docket and I'm only here discussing four bills that I don't like and 69 pages of documents I had to sift through to write my testimony. Fifty nine of them from 1076.

Please folks, do you really want to be here for like the rest of your eternity? It's a 59 page bill. It's just one of them and there was 11 on the docket today. That's -- I don't know how to break that down except I know that many people here did already very eloquently and did a wonderful job picking out certain pieces. I don't know if I can do that great of a job, so I just hit a couple points or one or two points

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Wactawski from Bloomfield.

JOE WACTAWSKI: Yes, Joe Wactawski from Bloomfield, Connecticut. I am here to personally oppose almost all of these bills. I like 299 with a little tweaking it could be a good bill. But, I am particularly opposed to S.B. 1076 which I believe is unconstitutional both on a state level and a federal level and believe me, it will be challenged. It will be challenged to a great extent. But, in particular, the reason I'm here is to tell you a story of two countries and it's very interesting. The two countries are number one Switzerland, number two the U.S. and you may know about this already, they are the two most armed countries in the world. We have more firearms per person in these two countries than any other countries in the world. The Swiss government actually passes out firearms to their people. They are fully automatic, very powerful weapons that can blow anything we call an automatic weapon, away. And, they actually have to store them in their home and that's because in Switzerland virtually everyone's in the military. If they're invaded, everyone is called up and you go to the front lines.

So, it would stand to reason that if you were a reasonable person, that there are a lot of murderers in Switzerland and a lot of mass murders. I mean they've got all these -- every home has these powerful weapons.

They also give them 500 rounds of ammunition every year too, by the way. Well, as it turns out, there are no mass murders in Switzerland. There haven't been any mass murders in Switzerland now for 40 years and there was only

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lams.

I'll just conclude. But, we all want to protect our children the same way we want to protect all the helpless, like the kids and the elderly. Our kids quickly grow like weeds into adults who we want to be capable, independent and don't want to leave them rendered helpless and unequipped for the decades of their adult lives. Let's leave the means to protect themselves throughout their lives and in a long and firm elderly years and not place them in jeopardy of being felons.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Andrew. Do we have any questions from Committee members for Andrew? If not, thank you very much. Thank you for testimony. We appreciate it.

ANDREW STARCZEWSKI: Thank you very much and I'd be very pleased to offer any information you folks might need. If anybody would like to take a trip to the range, you can use pretty much any one of mine, anything you're going to want until July 1. After July 1, I'm not going to have anything.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Okay. Thank you, Andrew. Next up is Daniel Wade from East Lyme.

DANIEL WADE: Good afternoon, Representatives and Madame Chairman. My name is Daniel Wade. You have my testimony before you of which all statements against the proposed laws have been voiced. I do support Senate Bill 299. I believe the state police should have a state-wide police emergency network to communicate more effectively.

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I want to inform you all of my personal tragedy in East Lyme. I have a neighbor that has been terrorizing my family for over a year and a half. My neighbor has hung full sized severed human heads 30 feet from my bedroom window and over 200 feet from his house. He had wind chimes hanging feet from our bedroom window after the police asked him to remove a speaker which he had mounted to a tree 30 feet from our bedroom window to keep us up at night. We have called the police in East Lyme multiple times and one officer told us to stop calling about the noise. They refuse to give him any tickets. We have harassment laws, causing a public disturbance, and breach of peace laws that are not being enforced.

My property and vehicles have been vandalized. The brakes on my truck has been tampered with. One of my roofs on the truck was caved in. No police reports, nothing has been done about it. I started recording the destruction with a video recorder. The police came and told me I could not use a recorder to do that. When he was coming at me in a violent manner, I started recording him. My neighbor blows his horn 30 feet from my bedroom window at all hours of the night. No tickets have been given out.

He has been operating his backhoe and driving down Route 1 at 10:00 at night. I called the PD. After being apprehended by the police, my neighbor came home violently angry and drunk or drinking. He rehung the severed head which had finally been removed and shot out one of my bedroom windows. He was arrested. He applied for accelerated rehabilitation and in May he will be free and clean of his crime. Since then he has installed a fence which he hangs

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naked dolls and cut marks, red paint that he has splattered which looks like blood and inverted Christian crosses.

My point is, the police are not doing their job. This man has been allowed to harass and terrorize me and my family for a year and a half and nothing has been done other than the arrest for blowing out the window. I have numerous letters to Paul Fameca, East Lyme's First Selectman and also resident State Trooper Sergeant Blanchette of which none have helped us. Why? Some police don't enforce the law. Lawyers and judges are allowed -- allow 71 percent of gun related crimes to go free. In less than three months, this guy's going to go free for a violent act that was committed on my home and my family. I am certain that this neighbor has committed these acts and still has firearms in his possession. Thank you Representatives and Madame Chair.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, David. Do we have any questions for Dave? Oh, Daniel, I'm sorry. Any questions from Committee members? If not, thank you. We're sorry for the problems you're having. Thanks for coming up and waiting. Next up is Michael Molinari from New London.

MICHAEL MOLINARI: Hello. My name is Mike Molinari and I am from New London. I'm relatively young, I'm only 23. I had my door kicked in at my house. I live in New London, so you know, the guy obviously had a problem with his mind. He was arrested a couple weeks later in the same area. So, personally I would absolutely like to have a firearm to be able to protect myself in my own home.

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But, I have to jump through all sorts of hoops right now to go and get a permit for handgun. To add any more rules and regulations to make it so that I have to jump through more hoops and what-not to go and get a handgun or any kind of rifle, is insane. The whole reason that we have the Second Amendment was to protect us from government. It was to protect us from the government. That was it. It wasn't designed so that I could go and sport shoot; it wasn't designed so that I could go and hunt; it wasn't designed for anything other than to keep the government in check.

Now, the -- that bill which is, I don't know, 60 pages long or whatever it is, 1076, that's pretty scary. That is -- that is probably the definition of tyranny, okay? And, the fact that we are even here discussing this as an issue, the fact that that bill is here, it -- I don't know, it's just terrible.

S.B. Number 299, the one for communication between state agencies, that's all good. We already have the radio system, why not use it.

But, pretty much all the rest of these rules and regulations or laws or whatever, they are no good, especially the one where you have to go and get paperwork to transfer between personal collections. The amount of paperwork and the problems it's going to cause for people are insane. It would be easier for me to go and get one illegally, than it would for me to get one legally. So, that's pretty much it.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Michael. Any questions for Michael? If not, thanks for waiting and thanks for coming up and

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testifying. Next up is Judy Aron, I guess?
And, Judy's from West Hartford.

JUDY ARON: Good evening, honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you so much for hearing all of us today. My name is Judy Aron and I am a resident of West Hartford. Governor Malloy believes me to be the fringe of the fringe, but I'm here today as taxpayer, a mother, a wife, a citizen of Connecticut and a law abiding person who has a valid Connecticut pistol permit and firmly believes in our constitutional right both federal and state, to keep and bear arms, unfringed.

We have several bills before us today in this Committee hearing, and I'm opposed to all of them except S.B. 299, for the very reasons that other people before me and after me will enumerate. The numbers and names of the bills I have put on the back of my testimony with some brief stated objections and I don't understand how anyone in good conscience can agree to any of these bills, all of which are completely and utterly ineffective in preventing another Sandy Hook in my opinion.

What these bills do, and especially S.B. 1076, is to make it more difficult and expensive for any citizen in Connecticut to legally own and operate a firearm and thus allow disadvantage for us and a major advantage to criminals. Criminals by definition will be exempt from these laws. Can you explain to me how we're here crafting legislation without a full account of what happened in Newtown? Where is the toxicology report? Where's the police investigation report? It's been three months.

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Without knowing why Adam Lanza did what he did or what drugs he was on, how can we just blame this all on guns and go full bore on restricting access, limiting availability and creating more paperwork and la la la la la? Did the current gun regulations, some of the toughest in the country, stop Adam Lanza? No, not entirely.

From what I heard, the system actually worked and he was denied a permit. But, he stole the guns anyway. He broke perhaps two dozen laws and so do you really believe that enacting 100 more laws and regulations is going to fix anything? Truly, it won't.

Instead, you're going to be punishing good, hardworking, taxpaying Connecticut citizens for the crimes that Mr. Lanza committed. I will wager the only thing that will prevent this tragedy from happening again is not restricting gun ownership, but fixing the incredibly broken mental health delivery system in this state and making certain that places where our children play and learn are made safe and secure. Where are the proposed laws for that? There are not many, if any.

Do you know how many bullets I want in my magazine? It's one more than my attacker has. I don't want the state telling me what kind of gun I can own, or what cosmetics it can have or how many bullets I can have in a magazine. In any crime against me or my family in my home, I will be the first responder, so I want you to know that. I should have the complete freedom to own and operate any equipment that my local police department has, since they are up

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against the same criminal element that I am in my own community.

And, I'll wrap up by saying all of this ineffective knee-jerk legislation will cost Connecticut in more paperwork, more law suits, lost jobs, lost revenue and lost lives. The costs are very real indeed and I will tell you that this gun issue is not a democrat issue, it's not a republican issue. It's an issue that affects every one of us and these laws that you're proposing will strip us of our ability to determine for ourselves how we wish to defend ourselves against criminals.

So, if you support any of these measures that will further erode our choices and whether you're a democrat or republican, you will do so at the peril of losing your next election. Because hundreds of thousands of average ordinary taxpaying people like me, across this state, will work very, very hard to make sure the people who disregard our firearm choices and our rights, and their oath of office will be unseated the next time election day comes around. Thank you.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Judy. Any questions for Judy? You have a question Representative Mikutel?

REP. MIKUTEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, we've heard throughout the hearing today many times from people testifying that we shouldn't be acting on something until we know what the full report is of the state police investigation is. And, that's an important point to make and it has a lot of merit. I think legislators should know as much as the

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state police know, to date. We don't need to know necessarily what's going to take them three months, but they know to date, we should know. I don't know why we can't get that information because we shouldn't be legislating in the blind and that's what we may be doing if we go out and do a bill next week not knowing what the investigation report actually says. So we should as legislators have the right to know to date, what do they know?

JUDY ARON: Absolutely, Representative Mikutel, I couldn't agree with you more. And, I am quite surprised and shocked that we don't have at least some sort of preliminary reports. I mean, I can't understand how it would take three months for them to produce some sort of toxicology report. We should know whether Mr. Lanza was on some sort of medication that made him homicidal, that made him aggressive, that made him suicidal.

I mean, normal people just don't get up one morning and blow their mother's face off and then trot off to a school to kill innocent children. You don't do that. He must have been on some sort of mind altering psychotic medication, I don't know. We don't know and we should know.

We should know this information because if there is some sort of side effects to some medications that people are on, they should either be monitored very carefully when they're taking it or that medication should not be made available to people. I mean that's a public safety, a public health issue.

And, I couldn't agree with you more. I just

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don't understand how we can go off and say, oh well, you know, we should have registration and we should do this fee and we should have liability insurance and la la la la la. None of those things would have stopped Adam Lanza. I'm sorry, it just would not have.

And, I feel very, very strongly as a permit holder in this state that with this plethora of legislation that's come out, this is a backlash against me. I haven't done any crime. This is punishing me. And, this is hamstringing me from being able to protect myself. As I said, how many bullets do I want in my magazine? I want one more than my attacker has. Thank you.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Judy. Are there any other questions from members of the Committee? If not, thank you very much, Judy. Next up is number 35 which is, I'll try to pronounce it, John Chunis from Rocky Hill.

JOHN CHUNIS: Good afternoon. My name is John Chunis. I'm a resident of Rocky Hill. I agree with all the testimony I've heard so far today with the exception of one. So, I will summarize. There are several aspects of Senate Bill 1076. I do agree however, with the statement I heard last week by the Co-Chairman of the Gun Violence Task Force that it is the person, not the gun they're trying.

Just as it is the person that is responsible for drunk driving accidents. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, we kill over 10,000 people a year due to drunk drivers in the U.S. and there's no hype going on about banning cars. Also, I doubt very much that we tax General Motors or the manufacturers

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that that becomes either a background check or a recording of information, we would obviously be opposed to that.

REP. GIEGLER: Okay. Thank you for your answer.

REP. VERRENGIA: Are there any other questions? Thank you. Marty Isaac followed by Scott Martin. We're at number 43. No Marty? No Scott Martin? Okay, come on up, sir.

SCOTT MARTIN: Hello, my name is Scott Martin. I'm from Middletown, Connecticut. I'm representing myself. I'd like to thank the panel for your honest work and your careful deliberations and your attempt to really educate yourself on all the issues before you make legislation and decisions. You really should be commended for that.

I want to apologize for really poorly prepared written testimony. I'm trying to go through statutory language and looking up the ramifications of it all, was quite overwhelming to me the last day and half. And, I didn't get through it all but, I'd just like to make a couple of quick comments on some of the legislations that I did see.

I am for Senate Bill 299, for the radio communication. I think that's a good idea. And, I'm a little -- I'm in support of the concept of H.B. 6162 where we're trying to intercede, interdict mental health issues with pistol permits and firearm access. My major concern is kind of the way it's written and I think I would like to defer to the comments of the first speaker, more of a due process type of clause and I think that this is something we

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Vantassle. No Jan? Robin Emond? Welcome.

ROBIN EMOND: Hi, I am Robin Emond. I am from Cheshire. I'm going to go -- this is going to get put aside, my testimony pretty much. I just want to let you know, I am against the majority of these bills. The only one that I am semi-okay with is S.B. 299. I don't think it covers enough. I think it shouldn't be just restricted to violent crimes by guns. I think it should be violent crimes period.

I am here with my husband and my father in law, who was a World War II veteran. He spent 18 hours here with us at the last hearing. We spent the day here Monday and he is back here with us today. This man served his country, he enlisted at 15 years old to defend our constitutional rights, to defend our freedom and those people and the people that are still fighting today, are fighting for the freedoms in this country and I do not believe that we're even having this discussion defending a right that is protected.

I will continue my part of my testimony here. By adding any new regulations or restrictions, you will be adding to financial burdens on the people of all income levels. While the higher wage earners will be able to exercise their rights, the ever lowering middle class and the low income earners will be stripped of their equal rights to the Second Amendment which is discriminating. Leaving those that can't afford to defend themselves or potentially defend themselves as victims not only at the hands of criminals but at the hands of bearcats.

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You will also be taking away our choice of arms and capacity which is not the government's job to tell us what is suitable for our needs. We know what is suitable for our needs. Restrict and regulate are key words in this unprecedented debate. Do you all remember, or should I say, care, that you put on the hand on the Bible and took your oath? The preamble to the Bill of Rights is often overlooked.

Well, I will remind you here today what it says. And, I know Representative Mikutel, might have misspoken earlier, but it made me really want to reaffirm what this says. The convention of a number of states have at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and destructive clauses should be added and as extending the ground of public confidence in the government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

I believe you all know the Second Amendment. Everybody's explained it and told you over and over again today. Those restrictive clauses stated in the Bill of Rights is not for the citizens, it is for you. Please think about this when you are drafting up a bill because I know you look at all of us as votes and trust me, I have taken the oath also and I take it very seriously and if any elected official be it republican or democrat, I will be out there doing my best to make sure you are not reelected. Thank you.

REP. VERRENGIA: Okay. Thank you, Robin. Are there any questions for Robin? Yes, we have a question for you.

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REP. ZUPKUS: Hi, thank you, Mr. Chair. It's not a question, it's a comment. Robin, thank you so much for coming and I want to first say thank you to your father in law who fought for our county. Well, please pass that along because we wouldn't be in this great country if it wasn't for people like that. And, I do appreciate you coming. We do share the district and I'm not commenting because you vote for me --

ROBIN EMOND: I actually can't vote for you. But, I will help you.

REP. ZUPKUS: We share a town. But, I do take the oath extremely serious and I always and not matter what I'm voting on or doing, I think about that and how it relates what we're talking about. So, thank you, thank you for representing a lot of Cheshire.

ROBIN EMOND: Please just remember, when you draft another bill, we deserve another hearing. Thank you.

REP. VERRENGIA: Okay. Thank you. Mona Starczewski. Mona? Okay. David Adametz followed by Greg Marchand.

DAVID ADAMETZ: My name is David Adametz and I thank you for allowing me to speak today. In 1990 I purchased a Colt AR-15 which is legally registered under the terms of the 1994 Assault Weapons Law. I purchased this rifle because it was a pleasant sporting rifle to shoot and it was excellent for protecting our farm's livestock against predators. In 1994 in response to the Assault Weapon Law, I

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do anything to limit firearm violence, gun violence. I know my son is safe when he's with me because I can protect him. I can protect my wife, who is from Stafford. But when he goes to daycare or he goes to -- when he goes to elementary school, none of these laws will protect him, none of them. And that's what we need to fix. That's all.

Thanks for your time.

REP. GIEGLER: Thanks for your testimony.

SENATOR HARTLEY: So, I just want to very quickly -- because I know we're all getting weary -- it will go much quicker and more productive if we all stay in our queue. And, you know, kind of the rules are that when you have the floor, you are not to be interrupted, and that is -- goes for both -- all parties.

And, so, I -- once again want to remind you about refrains and clapping and those kinds of things. Let's try to, you know, stay on course and get this done.

Thanks, Madam Chair.

REP. GIEGLER: All right. Thank you very much.

William Murphy followed by Robert Steed and Paul Zukowski.

WILLIAM MURPHY: Hello. Thank you very much for letting me speak here today. My name is William Murphy. I live in Tolland, Connecticut. I'm opposed to much, if not all, of the proposals under consideration today.

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Though, with the little content that I've been able to review and the time I've had, I really can't be sure. I believe S.B. 299 I might be able to support.

As far as S.B. 1071 is concerned, if its goal is to raise money, I don't think it's going to be very successful because the costs are going to put many of our small businesses out of business.

As for S.B. 1076, I may be in the minority here, but there are some parts that may help with mental health or criminal tracking. But the firearms registration is expensive and will have no impact on crime and would have made no difference in the Newtown shooting.

If I could expand on those two, there was a gun registration program that was tried in Canada and was scrapped on April 6th, 2012. It was estimated to cost over \$2 billion -- \$2 billion in startup costs from 1995 to 2004 and had an annual cost of operation, after full implementation, of around \$66.4 million per year. The population of Connecticut is approximately 10 percent of the population of Canada. And it was also a dismal failure with roughly 70 percent of the Canadian firearms never registered. It seems like an expensive endeavor for little results, and they scrapped it.

As far as criminal tracking goes and criminal sentencing, Jordan Marsh stole 12 firearms from a gun store in East Windsor, and he sold 12 firearms, and he pled guilty to a single count of theft of a firearm and received no jail

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shooters away from the sports with increased --
really burdensome regulation.

And I also oppose any bills that ban commonly
owned firearms, standard capacity magazines,
and mandate gun registration. We already have
some of the strictest laws in the nation. And
I really believe that they need to be better
enforced, the ones that we have. I think a lot
of good ideas came up here with the violent
offenders task forces. And I think the
criminals are really who need to be addressed
and that we don't need, necessarily, any new
gun banning regulations.

REP. GIEIGLER: Thank you, Karl, so much for being
here this evening. And I'm sure you've been
here all day, too, so, I appreciate that.

Does anyone have anything else to say?

All right. Thank you so much.

KARL DALE: Thank you very much.

REP. GIEIGLER: Jason Gawencki, followed by David
Heap, and Drew Covell.

Thank you.

If you could please state your name for the
file. Thank you.

JASON GAWENCKI: Good evening, my name is Jason
Gawencki. I'm from the town of Windsor,
Connecticut.

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First, I'd like to thank you all for taking the

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time to have this public hearing today. After the tragedy in Newtown, the people in Connecticut and across America have cried out for action to prevent these type of tragedies from happening again. In response, this Committee has made a few suggestions which are open for discussion today. Unfortunately, I find that most of these bills are the wrong approach. But for the sake of time, I'll limit my comments to only three bills.

The first one, obviously, is Senate Bill 1076. This bill is a conglomeration of several ideas that attempt to restrict civilian ownership of military-styled weapons and substantially increase the burden in order to possess any type of firearm. To do this, this bill bans most firearms with military features, requires a TDS and costly permit process for possession of any firearm, and implements a registration which adds even more financial burden.

I'm not a lawyer, but the way I read the Supreme Court Case, the United States versus Miller, it is pretty clear that the Second Amendment specifically applies to weapons associated with the military. This bill tries to forbid exactly those type of weapons. This bill also adds an excessive financial burden upon the exercise of a constitutionally protected right.

Article First, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut reads "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state." I don't believe that right should require an annual fee. Quite frankly, I think this bill shows a complete

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lack of regard for the governmental process. Fortunately, I'm pleased to find out that it was not drafted by this committee.

The next bill I wanted to discuss is House Bill 6162. Essentially, this bill creates a mental -- increases the mental health look-back period for permits and eligibility certificates. On the surface, this seems like a great idea. My objection is the elimination of the requirement that a probate court have to order the hospitalization in order to disqualify a person for a permit. I believe this is a disincentive to seek treatment, as simply checking oneself into psychiatric care will instantly restrict someone's rights.

I think the outcome of this bill will be detrimental to the overall mental health in the State of Connecticut. It almost feels as if it was rushed before the consequences were fully evaluated. I think the bill makes sense, but I think it needs a little bit more wordsmithing to figure out how to protect people and get them to seek treatment without running the risk of losing their rights.

For the sake of time, I'd also like to briefly state my opposition to all of the other bills except for Senate Bill 299, AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INSTANCE. I believe this bill is beneficial and should be presented to the Legislature.

Thank you again for your time.

I'm open to any questions.

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know, we appreciate that, because a lot of Legislators were flying blind on this stuff. So, the more knowledge that you guys put out, the better off we are. So, I appreciate your taking your time.

DOM BASILE: I'm happy to do it. I'm aware of the stalking laws here in the State of Connecticut, so I don't want you to get the wrong idea. But thank you. And it's always good to see you.

REP. GIEGLER: Thank you so much.

Jonathan Mazza, Brian Vanacore, and Lisa Morell.

Good evening. Could you just state your name for the record, please.

JONATHAN MAZZA: Yeah. My name is Jonathan Mazza I'm a resident of the Town of Farmington.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Committee. I'm going to deviate a bit from my written and submitted testimony just because so much of it has already been rehashed that I don't really feel the need to bludgeon you to death with it, so to speak.

SB 299

I will say, in addition to all of the bills that I've listed opposition to, 505, 506, 897, 1071, 1076, and House Bills 6162, 6251, and 6595, I would also, in addition, like to list opposition to 6598 which is the exemption for law enforcement officers to carry on school grounds while off duty under the stipulation that will encourage them to violate federal law and they will become criminals.

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necessarily being put forward.

I am in opposition to almost all the bills put forward today. I will state that. I think that 299, or rather, S.B. 299 has promise. It needs to be expanded, in my opinion. I think that only limiting emergency band communication between state and local police is, sort of, missing the point, because active shooter scenarios are incredibly rare, as someone stated previously. The odds are higher than being struck by lightning outdoors.

I think that any sort of public safety concern which is of a magnitude involving several people should go through this, sort of, radio channel. So, I think S.B. 299 has potential, but needs to be reformed.

REP. ROVERA: Okay. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

JONATHAN MAZZA: Thank you.

REP. GIEGLER: Thank you.

Anyone else for questions?

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much. I just want to be clear that we shouldn't prejudge whether or not Adam Lanza was denied of a -- of a pistol permit or not because we don't know that information. So that would be hearsay to say that if we actually knew what -- that information it is. And I note people have

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concerns about what the actual report is. And underneath current law, when there's a motor vehicle accident in the state and there's a death that occurs, sometimes it takes almost a year to close that case to come back with the -- what that information is because of the legality of -- of issues that might come forth from that. So, thank you very much.

JONATHAN MAZZA: Thank you.

REP. GIEGLER: All right.

Thank you and thank you for being here this evening.

Brian Vanacore, Lisa Morell, and then Tim Rockefeller.

Sir, I'm sorry, at the beginning, Senator Hartley --

BRIAN VANACORE: I was (inaudible) when I came in with the capital plea, they said I could --

REP. GIEGLER: Yeah, but for the committee, the rules were that there were no props.

What -- what do you have?

BRIAN VANACORE: (Inaudible.) It makes me a little different than anybody else here.

I'm not only a --

REP. GIEGLER: We didn't allow it all day, so we really can't allow it now because that was a -- some of the guidelines that the Chairs set

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hour for when the speed limit is 65? That's about all I have to say.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Craig. Any questions for Craig from members of the committee? If not, thank you. Thank you for sticking with us.

CRAIG VERRILLI: Thank you.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Next up is Chris Kalkreuth from Middefield, also.

A VOICE: He's 118.

CHRIS KALKREUTH: Good evening. My name is Chris Kalkreuth of Middlefield. I'm a lifelong resident of Connecticut, longtime firearm owner, pistol permit holder, range safety officer, hunter, and competitive shooter. I had a lot to say today. It's pretty much all ready been said.

<u>SB 505</u>	<u>SB 710</u>
<u>SB 299</u>	<u>SB 1071</u>
<u>HB 6162</u>	<u>HB 6595</u>
<u>HB 6598</u>	<u>SB 1076</u>

I want to thank the honorable members of the committee here before me for, you know, hearing us out, sticking this out this late here, for your wanting to learn about the guns, and actually following through with some of that, about learning about the processes which are in place right now.

It's important to know that before you decide where you're going. I'm also very enthusiastic to hear about how pretty much everyone in this room, and it doesn't really matter where you are on the aisle on this one, we really want to know what's going on in those state police reports. However long it takes to come out, I

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think we all can agree that we really need to know all that those investigations and tox screens have to show.

I am here today in opposition for numerous gun-control bills: S.B. 505, S.B. 710; not so much S.B. 299; I can be swayed on that one, but I think a little tweaking and we're there; S.B. 1071, H.B. 6162, H.B. 6595 and H.B. 6598, obviously, especially S.B. 1076. I'm not going to get into all that stuff, but really S.B. 710, I don't understand how requiring a permit for a gun shall prevent people from being killed.

The S.B. 299 -- I'm unfamiliar with the capabilities of the statewide police emergency network, but this is something I personally recently learned about. I don't know about its capabilities, but I think, you know, there's a resource there we should look at, how to better use it.

I'm glad to hear that actually 6595, the 500-foot firearm discharge regulation actually doesn't really have any place in this committee. It's like zoning and whatnot, so that's good, because that was a major concern for pretty much every firearm range that, you know, I belong to and others.

H.B. 6598 -- I just had a concern about this particular one. It -- at the end there was a blue section that caught my attention. I know there's other reasons that people have spoken about it today. I won't get into that. But the blue section, a whole new one, subsection F, stated basically if a citizen has their arm

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-- from Sandy Hook. How about Carol Ludwig from Shelton? It looks like we have Geri Sullivan from Sandy Hook. And then we have a James Harrell also from Sandy Hook. No? Okay. Steve Bartholomew from Simsbury. Okay. Charles Ruiz from Bethel. Tom Mazurik, I guess from Wallingford. And I know -- I know Kathy Mayer. She testified before from Newtown. Right? I think so, yeah. She's all ready testified. Okay. Okay. We have Hannah and I don't know, Kohane, I guess, from Riverside. No? Katie O'Neill from New Cannan. No? Matt Nowack from Middletown. Okay. We have Matt here.

A VOICE: [Inaudible]

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: That's 162.

A VOICE: [Inaudible]

MATT NOWACK: Ladies and gentlemen, my name's Matt Nowack. I'm from Middletown. Everyone's here to try to do the right thing and find a reasonable solution to firearms deaths. Now we know that the mentally ill need to be protected from themselves, and that the rest of us need to be protected from some of them, and we need to be protected from the criminals who care nothing about our laws.

SB 299
HB 6162
SB 1076

One level of protection is the right to defend one's self and family. Like the right of free speech, the right to protect one's self and family is an individual right, a personal right, a human right. Whether you choose to exercise that right or not is your choice. I can't make that for you. It's not the

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government's choice. I am confident though that if the state or federal government said everyone has to have a gun, the cry would be louder than what you've heard here. But it would be the same.

No, that's not the government's job. It's the right and choice of the individual. And some folks don't realize that. They don't realize that they and the gun owners can only protect their families inside Connecticut. Really.

Now why is it that the individual right to free speech is practiced nationwide, but the individual right to protect yourself is restricted to your own state, and in some states, within your own home. The Second Amendment people are here to provide solutions to Sandy Hook, that atrocity there, while ensuring that 100 percent of the Connecticut citizens see no further infringement on an individual's right to protect themselves and their families.

I agree that background checks for long arms is a good step forward, but it's an insult to every citizen in Connecticut, that a separate long arm permit will somehow keep Sandy Hook from happening again.

I agree that Committee Bill 299 on inter-department communication during an act of shooter incidents is good, but I'm amazed that it is so late.

Consider this, House Bill 6162 makes the point of taking guns out of the house inhabited by a mentally ill person, yet it has no provision

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for making that household safe by relocating the ill person to a state-run, professionally-staffed facility. Problem solved. Not.

Senate Bill 1076. To me anything 50 pages long has a big red flag on it. It's limits -- it limits everyone's defense firearms except those of the criminals. They don't care, so that problem is ignored. Taxes and fees will go up with this bill, and deny lower-income folks the option of owning a firearm. So much for if we save just one life, won't it be worth it.

For some of these bills are feel-good legislation. For others most of these bills are disrespect to the rights of the individual, a blatant gun grab, and depending on the vote, a breach of an elected official's oath of office, leaving the question, why would some in government want to do that? Thank you for your time.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Matt. Any questions members of the committee for Matt? If not, thank you for hanging in there with us.

MATT NOWAK: Thank you all very much.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Next is Brian Warren from South Windsor.

BRIAN WARREN: Good morning. My name is Brian Warren and I live in South Windsor. Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts of a simple man like myself. My point is kind of short, but I don't think it's heard enough people talking about it. The Second Amendment is important because of the Third Amendment.

SB 1076

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SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Okay. Thank you, Mike, and thanks for hanging in there. Have any questions for Mike from members of the committee? If not, thanks. Thanks for staying with us.

MIKE AGNIFILO: Thank you all.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Walter Reddy from Weston.
Walter? No. Mike Marek from Windsor Locks.

MIKE MAREK: MARE-ek.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Marek.

MIKE MAREK: Good morning. My name is Michael Marek. I'm from Windsor Locks. I'm a veteran; I'm a firefighter, a law-abiding citizen. I'm a proud firearms enthusiast, and I am in the majority. I do want to just correct a couple of things from a recent person at the microphone, with all due respect. You can legally own a machine gun and a short-barreled shotgun or rifle. It just takes the proper paperwork and fees.

SB 299 SB 710
SB 897

I've got testimony I submitted on all the bills, but really I'm just going to talk a little bit about 1076. I oppose the bill. It unnecessarily and unfairly re-defines assault weapons. It changes our cosmetic, and do not change the function of the gun.

This will have no effect on criminal behavior. The bill would add transfer requirements which would only affect law-abiding citizens. It would require a permit to purchase ammunition. That is like requiring a permit to put gas in

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your car. It would create a permit to purchase a rifle with \$140 fee. This is excessive. It would burden low-income citizens who want to exercise their Second Amendment rights. It also imposes a one-gun-per-month limit.

Criminals do not buy their guns in gun stores. They buy them on the street. So the only people this will burden are law-abiding citizens. It would prohibit a dealer from shipping ammunition to an individual. This would inconvenience people who want to save money by ordering online. It would prohibit people from possessing body armor unless they are police or in the Armed Forces. How would this reduce gun violence? I don't know. If you know, please tell me?

The bill would a gun registration yearly with an application, pictures, fingerprints and a fee for each firearm owned. This is redundant. Pistol permits cover this requirement.

The registration cards would be stored and carried with the firearm. Registration would be expensive and would not reduce crime. Every country that has registered firearms has eventually confiscated firearms, and that's history, and history repeats itself.

For the rest of the bills, there are only three of them that I could support: number 299, number 710 and number 897. For the rest of them, I would ask what proof is there that these bills will prevent a crime. To just say let's try and see is irresponsible.

My time is probably getting short, so I'll go

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off my written testimony that you have, and tell you personally that I've taught my 16-year-old niece safe gun handling at the range. She's a great marksman and a very safe shooter. We really enjoy shooting together. The semi-automatic pistol and rifle are what we use. Both have standard-capacity magazines of over ten rounds. S.B. 1076 would call the rifle an assault weapon, which it is not, because an assault weapon fires faster than a semi-automatic.

Please do not take away our right to shoot what we please as was intended when the Bill of Rights was written. It will not deter the next madman who decides to shoot un-armed people. Only armed response will change his course.

And I thank you all very much for staying this late. I really appreciate it.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Mike. Thanks for staying with us. Any questions from members of the committee? No? Any questions? Okay, if not, thank you, Mike.

Next up is Joe Visconti from West Hartford.

JOE VISCONTI: Good morning.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Good morning.

JOE VISCONTI: I guess Mr. Verrengia left. We served together on West Hartford Town Council, and we stayed up this late one night doing pedal cap legislation. We passed it, but there's no pedal cabs in West Hartford anymore. I'd like to start off with something really

(SB 1076)

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you, Joe.

JOE VISCONTI: Thank you very much.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you for staying so late.

JOE VISCONTI: Good morning.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Good morning. Our next one is
190, Melanie Phoenix from Essex.

MELANIE PHOENIX: Good morning.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Good morning.

MELANIE PHOENIX: Thank you so much, each and every
one of you for allowing us to come before you
today -- today.

SB1076
SB299

I come from Essex, Connecticut. My name is
Melanie Phoenix. I am a mom, a wife, a parent
of two girls in their 40s, and a grandparent.
I've been married almost 41 years, so I'm up
late.

I will read my one-page letter -- my one-page
testimony, but coming -- listening to
everything that's come above -- in front of you
today and yesterday, some of you mentioned
prohibition. The crime rate went up. In our
Valley Career newspaper down in Essex, every
single week there's breaking and entering under
the police blog. Every single week. We've got
more and more of those.

Utah doesn't have a safe-free zone and they've
never had anything like we experienced in
December. People apparently are -- and I have

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another thing that did not come up during this session, and I probably, knowing that the minimum of 1.2 billion rounds of hollow-point bullets have been purchased by Homeland Security and Social Security Administration, that bothers me. That bothers me a lot to know that.

Now, back to my testimony, if I may. I come before you in opposition to the Proposed Bill S.B. 1076. First of all, thank you for the time and attention you and your staff have given to the gun debate over the past several weeks.

Emotions have run very high from all avenues, and my opposition to 1076 certainly does not, nor is it intended to diminish opinions on those who lost their loved ones at Sandy Hook. I am confident that there has been much pressure from those who feel that more gun and ammo laws, rules and regulations, or taxation will justify a drop in future gun violence in our state. I respectfully disagree.

Perhaps Dr. Petit who lost his family to violent crime would agree with me. However, I have long -- thought long and hard as to why I asked you to cancel S.B. 1076 in its entirety, and the other ones as well. I am making an exception for S.B. 299. I think there should be some communications there.

Certainly the Constitution and Bill of Rights and a ready militia according to law come to mind. But so many citizens will -- may well be addressing those issues which you have all before you, and are -- and they are important.

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I shall ask you to consider one other reason, that is the difference in the definition between murder and killing.

No way, sorry.

In Webster, murder is defined as the unlawful and malicious and premeditated killing of one human being by another. Webster also defines the verb "to kill" as to cause the death of, make die, to put an end to, an act or instance of killing. Would you be grateful if someone had the legal capability, a gun, to put an end to, kill, the murderer before the act was fulfilled, especially if the perpetrator was about to murder you, your child, or a loved one. I would be grateful that someone put their life on the line to save me or my loved ones.

Connecticut all read has very strict laws on the books regarding gun control, and it did not matter last December at Sandy Hook. The fact is that our students and teachers were vulnerable because of laws that are all ready on the books.

Laws mean nothing to criminals who have unlawful, malicious, or premeditated intent as their goal. Registrations, limitations, and taxation will not stop criminal violence. Please consider not further burdening law-abiding citizens who may or may not yet own a firearm, those who have never, ever mis-used a firearm, or those who have no intent to do harm to another human being. That person just may be the one who saves your life.

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Thank you very much for your courtesy and cooperation regarding this matter.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you. Thank you, Melanie. Anybody have any questions for Melanie from the committee? If not, thank you. Thank you for waiting with us this long.

MELANIE PHOENIX: Thank you [inaudible].

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Elias Davenport from Weatogue.

ELIAS DAVENPORT: Good morning, Mr. Chair, members of the committee. I am Elias Davenport. I'm an 18-year-old resident of Weatogue, Connecticut. I'm a junior competitive shooter, and so that brought up my interest in this public hearing. I haven't been here quite as long as some of you. I got here at 2 o'clock after work, but thank you all so much for being here, and for still being here.

We're incredibly grateful and impressed to see this many of you still behind your desks at -- it's almost a quarter of two in the morning. And I'm speaking today to voice my opposition to Senate Bills Number 505, 1071, and 1076. I am also speaking in opposition to House Bills Number 6162, 6252, and 6595. And my comments today will relate specifically to Senate Bill 1076, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE.

(HB 6251)

And thank you to those who clarified earlier, I am very glad to understand now that it was not this committee that drafted 1076. So my comments -- please take that into account as I say that. I am not attacking any one of you.

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past. We have society issues here, parenting issues. We have so many things to look at and we're focusing on an inanimate object that sits in a safe and can be mis-used.

Incrementally disarming the good people of this nation and state will not save lives. It's against our nation's Constitution. It's against our state's Constitution. And has world history has repeatedly shown, it is an invitation to disaster.

I stand opposed to all these bills, any further bills and any current restrictions on firearm owners by legitimate law-abiding citizens. Thank you very much.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Evan. Any questions for Evan from members? If not, thank you very much for hanging with us.

EVAN BARBIN: Sorry about my voice. I just had surgery two weeks ago.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: You sounded fine. Okay, next up is Roy Downey from Higganum. Is Roy here? How about Jacob Hemenway from Shelton? No. Okay.

JACOB HEMENWAY: For the record, I'm Jacob Hemenway from Shelton, Connecticut. I just want to say thank you for your tenacity in sticking around. It's definitely an important issue, whatever, you know, way you may feel. To be brief, I'll just read from my written testimony.

SB1076

I've come to speak today to show my support for a few of the proposed bills, and for the record I am only in support of S.B., I think, 299.

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And hopefully to eliminate the actual impact or lack thereof that most others would have.

One life lost, no matter the circumstance, is way too many. A lost life is always a tragedy. That's why we owe it to everyone today and tomorrow to address the circumstances of the crime with wise legislation that makes an effective impact.

I think there are many problems and the lack of good solutions that just better communication and understanding between people could solve. I believe this is one of those issues. If my information is correct, aren't we still waiting for the police report to be completed and released?

Surely we can magnify the issue a little more to make sure our actions are appropriate. Numerous questions go unanswered, and still some larger questions have yet to be asked. These measures before us today likely wouldn't be here if a murderer didn't enter Sandy Hook in December. Doesn't it follow that our proposed bill should carry some meaningful weight in order to prevent such an event? But I see bills that aren't in full capacity to do so, proposals that never work, and many bills that are largely misguided, likely in haste to do something.

Further communication between authorities at state and local levels -- excellent. Allow peace officers to carry on school grounds -- I am with you on that one. And then it stops. Why are the bills attempting to address a tool, a rifle that functions the same as a majority

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of the others, instead of addressing the real problem -- a person, a person who made an awful decision, but a decision nonetheless.

It is very bothersome that we have proposals here today that seem to indicate guns are the main aggressor, but pass right over the fact that even if the shooter didn't possess firearms at the time, society would still be left with someone who wished to harm countless people. There will always be tools in society, but the abuser of such tools will always be the problem.

I ask you don't target the tools of the peaceful majority because of the actions of a crazed person. If we look at the events, we see the shooter did attempt to buy a weapon and the system worked to an extent. He was denied, as far as our information tells us. We're left to guess until the police report is out. Why couldn't just a little more have been done?

A simple phone call to his mother notifying her, reminding her of her duty to store firearms appropriately, something that the majority of gun owners do and are reminded of when purchasing one. The shooter also stole the weapons from her. He didn't need to seek the legal route because it had all ready worked. Should a time come when the expansion of an assault weapon -- I'll be very shortly -- should the time come when the expansion of an assault weapon passes, it's just another ticking second where the evil or insane stay that way, where they will acquire the means of destruction by hook or by crook. This legislation begs the question: If it prohibits

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legal ownership, then why would bad people care to obey it anyway? The shooter's actions were against the law in the first place. It's painful to, but realize the Sandy Hook event could have been done with a knife, an airplane, a bomb, arson, a pistol with 28 one-round magazines. Where's the discussion on family upbringing? Where's the legislation recognizing that these shooters from Columbine and probably Newtown were on dangerous medications? Where's the bill that says since gun-free zones are always the target, then we will do away with them?

We trust these amazing teachers in shaping our children's lives. We should not commit them to a role of a human shield when they desire to save lives. Can we not also trust them in bearing arms?

The shooter -- excuse me -- the shooter was coward enough to kill himself with the arrival of police. Doesn't it follow that if a teacher posed a threat, we could have at least changed the odds?

More people are murdered with screwdrivers, hammers, kitchen knives, bare hands than your definition of an assault weapon. Of course, most gun violence, gun crime occurs in gang or drug-related incidents. What effect will these bills have on that environment? Nothing. All men are not angels. When someone like the Newtown shooter desires maximum destruction, please do not tell me that we cannot have maximum protection?

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Jacob, can you summarize?

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JACOB HEMENWAY: It -- it will be very short, yes. When they want death to the nth degree, don't tell us to what degree we may defend ourselves. When bad people disobey countless laws all ready, please do not invade the freedoms of good law-abiding people. I implore you to not pass any new gun-control measures. Jacob Hemenway; I vote; I love freedom and I'll search for it in another state if I have to.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Thank you, Jacob. Any questions for Jacob from members? If not, thank you. Thanks for hanging in there with us.

JACOB HEMENWAY: Thank you.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: This guy I know is here. Lance Corporal Joshua Flashman from Stratford, 199.

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA FLASHMAN: Good morning.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO: Good morning.

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA FLASHMAN: I was asked to come here today by the CCDL to testify as a weapons and tactics expert for the military, and also to provide -- I was going to provide my own commentary on 6162, and provide a solution I've actually come up with myself for resolving gun violence, but I'll start with the weapons and tactics part -- part of it that I was asked her to testify about.

I'm actually a native of Sandy Hook, Connecticut. That's where I grew up. That's where I call home. My dad is the pastor of six of the victims' families. I babysat a couple of

**Testimony of Daniel Wade of East Lyme in support of
SB 299 ACT Concerning communication among state and local police
 Gun Violence Committee Public Hearing
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SB 299 State police should use the State-wide Police emergency network as a notification tool to communicate state security. This is logical and will allow better communication.
SB 506 I support criminal background checks.

SB 505 I do not support, how can we justify sending 18 year old Men to war with a rifle and a pistol and the ability to launch nuclear weapons, drones with bombs etc. and say that civilians are less responsible and they have to wait till they are 21? Also many competition shooters would not be allowed to participate in the sport until they are 21.

SB 710 Gun show permits will make it too subjective and prohibitive to have gun shows within our state. As a result of passing this law, people will simply buy their guns in neighboring states, which is similar to the diesel and fuel taxes within our state, large trucks AND small cars simply pass through our state and purchase fuel in RI or MASS We currently have gun show statutes, Sec. 29-37g, as you are already aware.

SB 897 I am against because the proposed bill is covered in CT gen stat 53-206d, 29-33, 29-37a. and furthermore you are making the legal percentage of alcohol go up not down from the existing stats.

SB 1076 is a flagrant disregard of our constitutional rights. "Assault Weapons" are already very tightly controlled in CT by very strict statues. These firearms are classified as "in common use" by 2nd Amendment standards. The characteristics specified are cosmetic in nature. Changing the requirement from two characteristics to one and adding a barrage of other requirements will not make these firearms any less lethal.

B6162 is going to affect people that are in the same home with someone who has been institutionalized. This will force people to send their loved ones into institutions (if they have been previously institutionalized) if they wish own guns. Also fewer people will be institutionalized in the first place knowing that anyone associated with them will be prohibited from owning guns-not good. This has potential to prevent necessary treatment of the person in need.

HB 6251 forces everyone who is going to transfer a firearm to be trained in fingerprinting? This is absurd.

HB 6595 anyone who intentionally discharges a firearm within 500 feet of a residential property. I do not support this because gen stat. 53-203 covers negligence of a firearm. We should enforce existing law. How will this affect a person defending their home using a firearm? Will they automatically become a criminal for firing at a violent intruder?

HB 6598

B1071 Criminal injuries compensation fund is just another fund that will be abused and misused by the people that disperse the money.

I support meaningful efforts to address the problems of violent crime and mass violence in America, through swift and certain prosecution of violent criminals; securing our schools; and fixing our broken mental health system.

Sincerely;
 Daniel J Wade
 392 Boston Post Rd
 East Lyme, CT 06333
 860-383-3361

Good Morning, my name is Richard Wildman, I am currently the Acting Police Chief for the town of Middlebury and I have been in law enforcement since January of 1979. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Public Safety and Security Committee this morning on proposed bill 299.

With many cuts in law enforcement over the past few years, many agencies have to do with less. Mutual Aid is relied on more and more for getting additional resources and manpower to deal with emergency situations. Early notification and good communications are a must in these times.

Over the past several years police agencies in Connecticut have made improvements to their radio communications however these improvements came with down falls. A simple \$100.00 scanner to monitor what is going on in your neighboring community or the highway that runs through your community is a thing of the past due to digital encryption. Many agencies rely on a single radio frequency commonly referred to as Hot Lines. These designated hot line radios are usually set up by county to pass information onto the State Police or their neighboring communities within that county.

Since 9-11 the State of Connecticut through grants and other funding developed the Connecticut State Police Emergency Radio Network commonly referred to as CSPERN. All Police Departments including the State Police were given radio equipment to communicate on this frequency.

Proposed Bill 299 would require early notification to all law enforcement agencies throughout Connecticut by the Connecticut Message Center via a tone alert sent out on CSPERN as soon as they learn of some type of active shooter incident or other dangerous situation affecting law enforcement and public safety. The alert would contain the necessary information to law enforcement so that a proper response can be made to the emergency. Now with this information the Chiefs of Police can make decisions to send resources, take measures to safe guard their respective communities, and to harden targets in their community such as schools or heavily populated areas.

Attachments:

1- Portable CSPERN Radio

2- Base Radio 3- Car Radio

On 12/14/2012 the tragedy in Newtown was occurring about ten miles from the town of Middlebury. Newtown is located in Fairfield County while Middlebury is located in New Haven County, two separate hotline systems. It wasn't until 45 minutes after the fact that I was notified by a friend, also in law enforcement, about this incident. Many other law enforcement agencies only learned about the incident by way of the media. **This is totally unacceptable.** When I called my regional school district to go into lock down I found out that lockdown was being implemented already thanks to the media.

I know that the legislature is hard at work on budgetary issues, so I bring good news; this radio system already exists and it won't cost a dime to implement a notification system like this.

Many law enforcement agencies over the years have been given additional grants to add CSPERN radios to their patrol cars and add portable radios to their inventories.

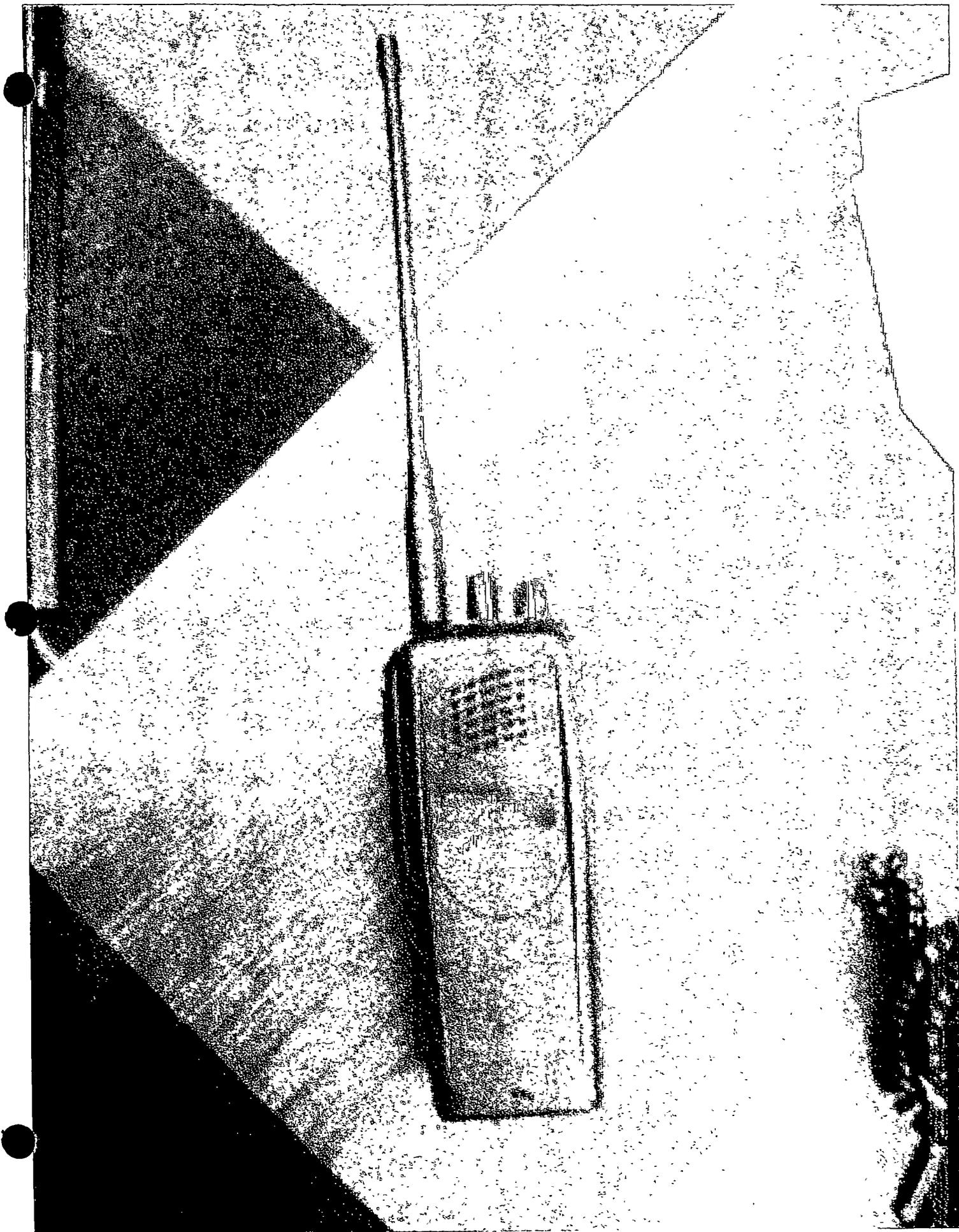
I was approached by several chiefs recently who advised me that back in 2010 most of the Chiefs were sent important alerts to their iPhones by an Alert system. As far as I know this notification system no longer exists, however most agreed that the Connecticut Message Center was responsible for these alerts.

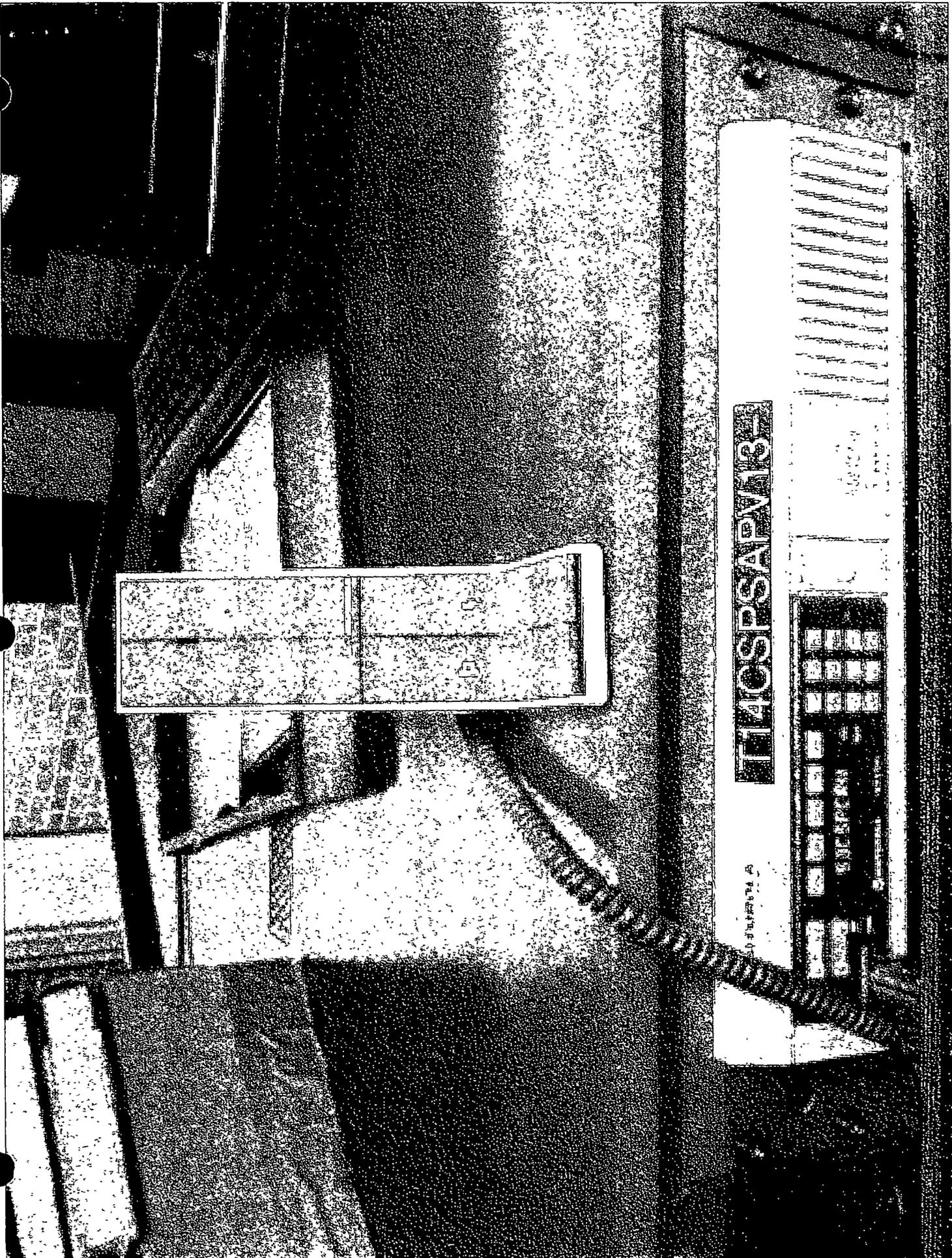
With this necessary CSPERN alert system in place, it would be up to each Chief of Police to address the policies for the monitoring of the CSPERN frequency. In addition they will have the comfort in knowing that there is a two way communication system in place to alert their departments to any emergency situation that is going on anywhere in the state.

With this information, Police Chiefs can make the necessary adjustments quickly on public safety in their own communities and have one frequency they can rely on to communicate.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter!

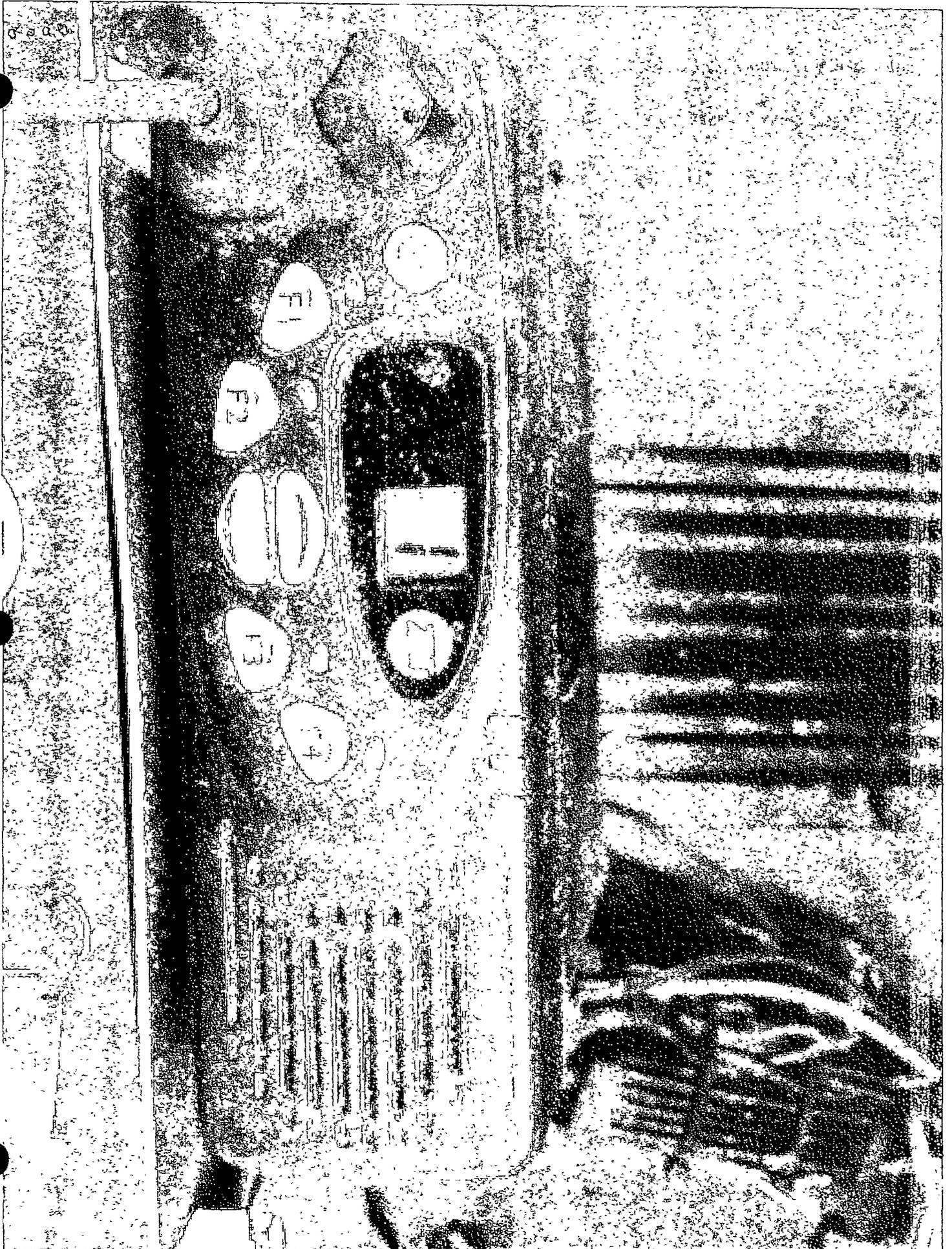
Richard Wildman, Acting Police Chief
200 Southford Rd.
Middlebury, CT 06762





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INDUSTRIAL A



Rep Steve Dargan
Sen Joan Hartley
Public Safety Committee

My Name is Doug Curtiss, I am the president of Sonitrol New England in Rocky Hill Ct We are a central station alarm company serving the Hartford, East Hartford, Newington, Wethersfield Schools to name just a few In our 40 year history of serving these Connecticut Communities , we have never faced the challenges we now face after Sandy Hook

I am here to support proposed bill number 299, but to amend it to broaden the focus beyond pure radio communications In a post 911 world, the Federal Government mandated First Responders to adopt standards to allow their existing radios to communicate between fire, police, and EMS radios to address the issue in 2001, when firemen climbing the stairs of the World Trade Center could not talk to Police commanders because they were on different radio networks

12 years later, as the Internet and mobile communications have been widely deployed, First Responders racing to a first person shooter incident in a school need more than radio communications, they need to share radio, telephone, video, audio, and floor plans to effectively respond to a Sandy Hook, or 911 type incident

We have deployed a technology in partnership with another Connecticut Company Mutualink to address the federal mandates for Interoperability Mutulaink is a secure Internet enabled workstation, located at Police/Fire dispatch, Hospital, School, EMS, alarm company which allow those First Responders to share radio, telephone, video, audio, and floor plans during an incident. Police, fire, State Police can talk to each other across their existing separate radio networks If a police Commander in the field, needs to view video from inside a school during a shooter response, it is available on his IPAD, iPhone or Android device An EMS technician responding to a choking incident in a school cafeteria, can patch in the local hospital emergency room in real time so doctors can advise and consult

This technology is deployed today and can facilitate the State Police, and other First Responders It is cost effective because it utilizes existing radio, telephone, camera and other infrastructure It allows all those devices in Schools, Hospital, Police, Fire and EMS dispatch centers to share each other's resources during and incident

It is proven technology

Mutualink has been designated the official Interoperability Standard for NATO Special Operations and is widely deployed in Afghanistan You might imagine the challenge of getting separate radio systems to communicate with each other for English, American, French, Italian troops deployed in a war Zone Muatulink was the solution

When Capt Scully put his Airbus down in the Hudson River, Mutualink was the communication Network used by the Port Authority of NJ whose cameras had eyes on the Hudson, to share that video with local hospitals in NJ to anticipate the level of casualties before they arrived at the Emergency Room

When Hurricane Sandy came ashore in New Jersey, Mutualink was used by First Responders to coordinate the response Since it based on the Internet, the network survived individual failures in local telephone or radio infrastructure

And here in Hartford, our Capital City, Mutualink is being deployed as we speak, through the vision of Chief Jim Ravello, at the Hartford Police EOC, ST Francis Hospital, University of Hartford, Trinity College, and here at the State Capital at the Command Center LOB.

In short, I believe that proposed bill number 299 has too narrow a vision. It specifies a single radio network, the State Police Statewide Network, be used to coordinate response. Interoperability technology would allow not only the State Police Network to be used, but also all the exiting local Police and Fire Radios to work in concert.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Doug Curtiss
President
Sonitrol New England
860-247-4500

Sonitrolnewengland.com



Web www.mutualink.net

GREATER HARTFORD IRAPP

Greater Hartford, State of Connecticut Interoperable Response and Preparedness Platform (IRAPP)

Enhancing Joint Situational Awareness and Advancing a Common Operating Picture Framework through a Real-time Communications, Multimedia Information Sharing and Collaboration Platform



More Info:

Charlie Hatten

Corporate and Business Development

(860) 798-7900

chatten@mutualink.net

Date: January 7, 2013



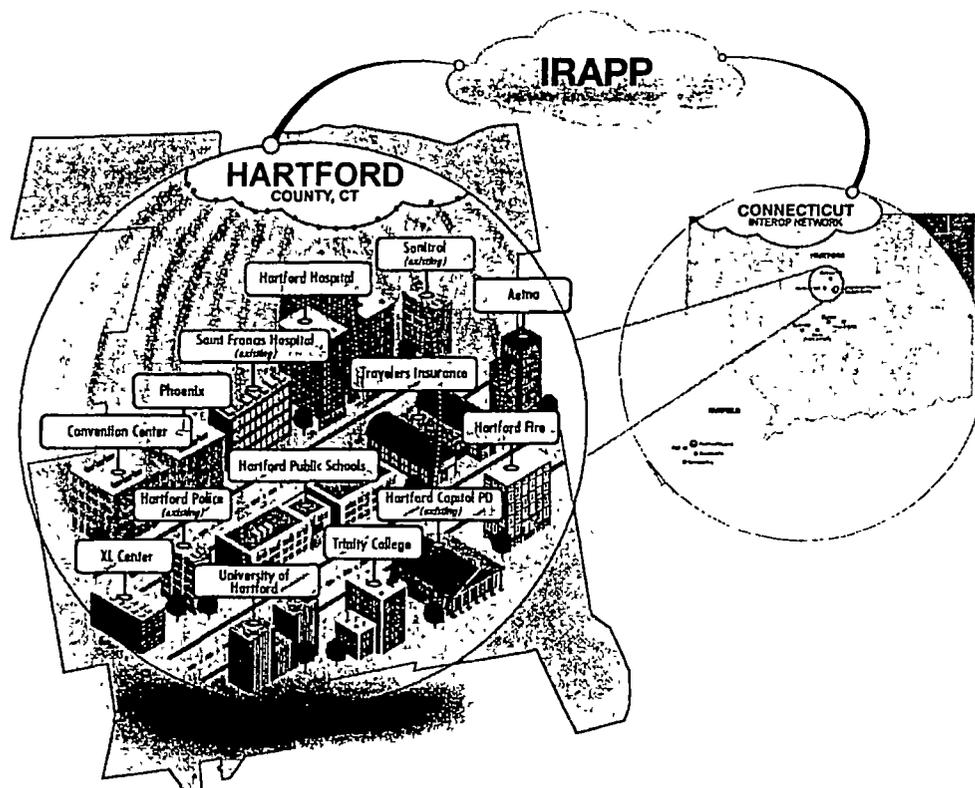
Web www.mutualink.net

GREATER HARTFORD IRAPP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT VISION: In an effort to lead the creation of an innovative, low cost and scalable "all hazards" interoperable emergency communications and collaboration network, The Greater Hartford IRAPP Network (IRAPP) will enable the ad-hoc, real-time bridging of disparate communications systems as well as sharing of streaming video and data across emergency response agencies and critical community assets. The IRAPP Network will be a dynamic collaboration environment that will provide an agile and scalable emergency preparedness, response and recovery capability. This new capability will facilitate improved multi-agency joint command and control and real-time situational awareness while enlarging the functional interoperable communications sphere to include other key assets and partners.

THE NEED: Despite intensive efforts to implement interoperable communications among partner agencies within the region, comprehensive and flexible interoperable communications and information sharing capabilities remain challenged, especially when considering critical infrastructure and key resources assets (CIKR). Furthermore, while agencies have achieved greater collaboration and information sharing capabilities, this has not yet created a common operating picture capability or agile collaboration environment within an all hazards context. The reasons for this are multi-fold including: (i) the fact that there are numerous disparate communications and video systems in place; (ii) the cost to move every agency onto a





Web www.mutualink.net

GREATER HARTFORD IRAPP

single communications platform is expensive, (iii) agencies wish to maintain jurisdictional and sovereign control over their communications, video and data assets. These challenges increase when other governmental agencies and private sector entities are considered in the mix. Yet, the most significant step towards improving community-wide resiliency lies in effective emergency planning and active coordinated response within a shared awareness framework. Providing a means for real-time collaboration and communications across all key entities is essential to achieving an improved state of readiness and resiliency. This project sets the foundational steps to implement a comprehensive multi-regional interoperable communications and collaboration capability using an innovative, low cost solution that overcomes the traditional challenges to interoperability.

POLICY PRIORITY: As stated in the State of Connecticut's Enhanced Public Safety Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP), and aligned with the Nation's strategic homeland security goals, this project is based on a scalable "all hazards, all disciplines" approach that includes CIKR. The proposed project directly advances these goals by providing a scalable, low cost and effective platform for real-time interoperable communications, information sharing and collaboration across agencies and community CIKR assets on a dynamic ad-hoc basis.

SOLUTION OVERVIEW: The IRAPP Network employs Mutualink technology. This technology is unique in that it overcomes the major hurdles to implementing a pervasive interoperable communications capability, because: (i) it is cost effective by utilizing existing communications assets; (ii) it utilizes a highly secure IP standards based internet networking infrastructure, eliminating additional network costs, (iii) it is scalable and modular allowing parties to join as and when funding permits rather than requiring a monolithic build-out, (iv) participants retain sovereign control over their communications systems because controlling intelligence is distributed to the edge and no central server or administrative control point exists, (v) it is very easy to use, meaning a broader spectrum of participants can use it, and (vi) it is a "bridging" technology that can handle both legacy and new radio protocols allowing an effective pathway to next generation radio systems which various jurisdictions may pursue in the future.

The solution consists of intelligent end-point devices that can interface with existing communications and multimedia systems, as such radio systems, video distribution systems, telephone systems, mobile phones, and intercom system or other IP based systems. Once connected into IRAPP via a secure broadband internet connection, these assets can then communicate, as well as share video and other data in real-time with other IRAPP network participants who have been invited into the same secure incident session. Participation in the incident session is controlled solely by each participant through an interoperable work station (IWS) which allows for communications with invited participants and for the participant to dynamically add or remove their various communications assets to or from an incident as the circumstance dictates and as the communications asset owner desires. Other members on the network can be seen and can be invited to join an incident at any time. This provides a dynamic ad-hoc capability that allows the right parties to be joined as the circumstances of an emergency require. Only participants who are in a secure incident session can hear or monitor communications. All other members on the network do not know an incident is occurring until they are invited to join.



Web: www.mutualink.net

GREATER HARTFORD IRAPP

NETWORK PARTICIPATION:

The following agencies in the region are currently on the IRAPP network

- Hartford Police Department
- City of Hartford Capitol Police Department
- St Francis Hospital

It is the goal of this project to ultimately have every major agency and critical community asset within the State of Connecticut participating on the IRAPP Network. Each participant will be able to join the network as and when they desire and when their funding permits. Through advanced auto-detection capabilities, as new participants join the network, existing member directories will automatically be updated without any cost or intervention. Due to the system's unique peer based virtual and distributed network architecture, as additional agencies join IRAPP, the new agency bears their hardware and network related costs. Finally, because the technology uses and adapts to any type of broadband internet capability, participants have the flexibility to utilize any type of connection which best serves them.

P43L6

EVERYONE IS HERE TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS AND FIND A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO FIREARM DEATHS. WE KNOW THAT THE MENTALLY ILL NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM THEMSELVES AND THAT THE REST OF US NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM SOME OF THEM. AND TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE CRIMINALS WHO CARE NOTHING ABOUT LAWS. ONE LEVEL OF PROTECTION IS THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ONE'S SELF AND FAMILY. LIKE THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH, THE RIGHT TO PROTECT ONE'S SELF AND FAMILY IS AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT. A PERSONAL RIGHT, A HUMAN RIGHT. WHETHER YOU CHOOSE EXERCISE THAT RIGHT OR NOT IS YOUR CHOICE, NOT MINE, NOT THE GOVERNMENTS. I'M CONFIDENT, THAT IF THE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAID EVERYONE HAS TO HAVE A GUN, THE CRY WOULD BE LOUDER BUT THE SAME - "NO, THAT IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S JOB, IT IS THE RIGHT AND CHOICE OF THE INDIVIDUAL." AND YET, SOME FOLKS DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY AND GUNS OWNERS CAN ONLY PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES INSIDE CONNECTICUT. WHY IS IT THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH IS PRACTICED NATIONWIDE, BUT THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO PROTECT YOURSELF IS RESTRICTED TO YOUR OWN STATE. AND IN SOME STATES, ONLY WITHIN YOUR OWN HOME? 2ND A PEOPLE ARE HERE TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO THE SANDY HOOK ATROCITY WHILE ENSURING THAT 100% OF CONNECTICUT CITIZENS SEE NO FURTHER INFRINGEMENT ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

I AGREE THAT BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR LONG ARMS IS A GOOD STEP FORWARD. BUT IT IS AN INSULT TO EVERY CITIZEN OF CT, THAT A SEPARATE LONG ARM PERMIT WILL SOMEHOW KEEP SANDY HOOK FROM HAPPENING AGAIN. I AGREE THAT COMMITTEE BILL 299 ON **INTERDEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS** IS GOOD. CONSIDER THIS, HOUSE BILL 6162 MAKES THE REASONABLE POINT OF TAKING GUNS OUT OF THE HOUSE INHABITED BY A MENTALLY ILL PERSON. YET HAS NO PROVISION FOR MAKING THAT HOUSEHOLD SAFE BY RELOCATING THE ILL PERSON TO A STATE RUN PROFESSIONALLY STAFFED FACILITY? PROBLEM SOLVED? NOT!

SENATE BILL 1076 IS 50+ PAGES LONG, IT INCLUDES NOT TRUSTING THE FIREARMS DEALERS TO CALL THE FBI FOR THE BACKGROUND CHECK. IT LIMITS EVERYONE'S DEFENSE FIREARMS CHOICES EXCEPT THE CRIMINALS- THEY DON'T CARE - SO THAT PROBLEM IS IGNORED. TAXES AND FEES WILL DENY LOWER INCOME FOLKS THE OPTION OF OWNING A FIREARM - SO MUCH FOR "IF WE SAVE JUST ONE LIFE, WON'T IT BE WORTH IT". FOR SOME, MOST OF THESE BILLS ARE FEEL GOOD LEGISLATION, FOR OTHERS, MOST BILLS ARE DISRESPECTFUL OF THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, A BLATANT GUN GRAB AND A BREACH OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL'S OATH OF OFFICE TO SUPPORT & DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION. LEAVING THE QUESTION: WHY WOULD SOME IN GOVERNMENT WANT TO DO THAT?

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, MATT NOWACK 53 HARVARD CT, MIDDLETOWN, CT

Testimony to the Public Safety and Security Committee
March 14, 2013

OPPOSE: SB 505, SB 1071, HB 6162, HB 6251, SB 1076
SUPPORT SB 299

Honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee

My name is Kevin Holian-Borgnis. I'm a honest citizen, gun owner, father of two, and Secretary of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. We're the largest grassroots pro-gun organization in the State with nearly 4500 members statewide. I'm opposed to most of what is being proposed here today, but since I'm short on time I'll try to limit my discussion.

SUPPORT with Modifications:

SB299 AAC COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS

I support this bill, but I don't see a valid reason to limit it to active shooter incidents. Any incident with multiple victims seems like it might benefit from the increased communication.

OPPOSE SB505 AAC THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR OTHER LONG GUN

Connecticut has a rich history of hunting that will be dismantled for adults aged 18-21. These adults are deemed old enough to vote, pay taxes, and sacrifice their lives to this country. However, with this legislation they would be unable to come home and hunt or participate in target shooting upon returning home.

OPPOSE SB1071 AAC ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

This bill is trying to keep small businesses out of this state by enacting new regulatory schemes and steep barriers to entry. But new small business are not the only ones that would be affected, it looks like this legislation would also apply to manufacturers and importers already in the state. CT has a long history of firearms manufacturing that would be destroyed by imposing strict new licensing requirements and increased taxes. Several companies have already said they are considering leaving the state. Why make it an easier decision by pushing the industry, which contributes thousands of jobs and more than \$1.5 billion to the State's economy?

OPPOSE HB6162 AAC INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION

I worry that this legislation would make those who need help with mental health issues less likely to seek it. We've seen as recently as last week a case in California where a man's firearms were confiscated by State Police in California after his wife voluntarily checked herself into a hospital to deal with mental health issues. While the intentions of

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 5
1433 - 1767**

2013



Harwood W. Loomis
 172 Peck Hill Road
 Woodbridge, CT 06525-1009
 United States of America

13 March 2013

Public Safety Committee
 CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 Legislative Office Building
 Hartford, CT

<u>SB 505</u>	<u>SB 506</u>
<u>SB 710</u>	<u>SB 897</u>
<u>SB 1071</u>	<u>SB 1076</u>
<u>HB 6162</u>	<u>HB 6251</u>
<u>HB 6595</u>	<u>HB 6598</u>

Re Gun Control Law Hearing

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee

I would like to take this opportunity to express my views regarding the current stampede to adopt new and senseless anti-gun, anti- Second Amendment, unconstitutional laws in Connecticut in knee-jerk response to the tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School three months ago. It is clear from the public statements of many legislators and many anti-gun advocates in the general populace that the Constitution of the United States is being ignored, the constitution of the State of Connecticut is being ignored, and the deplorable status of security in our state's schools is being ignored in favor of demonizing "gun violence"—as if violence perpetrated with a gun is different from and/or worse than violence perpetrated with knives, machetes, motor vehicles, bombs, or other weapons of mass destruction.

I am a United States Army Veteran who served in Vietnam. I put my life on the line to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. I swore my oath to defend the Constitution 47 years ago and I still consider it my sacred oath. It is distressing to see so many members of the General Assembly who can't seem to remember their oaths for a period of even one or two years.

We do not need more gun control laws. Such laws do not impede criminals. You all know this. These new gun control laws will accomplish nothing other than to harass and inconvenience law-abiding citizens, while offering nothing that might in any way serve to prevent a repetition of Sandy Hook. It must be recognized that Sandy Hook was not an everyday crime. It was an anomaly, an aberration. It was unpredictable. It is impossible to predict and to protect against the unpredictable. It is a waste of time, energy, and resources to even attempt this.

With respect to the specific bills which I understand are the subject for discussion on 14 March, I wish to offer the following comments:

✓ SB 299 – AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS

I support this bill

SB 505 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE A RIFLE

I OPPOSE this bill. A law should be changed or a new law enacted only if/when there is a clearly identifiable problem the new law can address. Where is the problem with the current law? Adam Lanza did not purchase the rifle he used at sandy Hook—he stole it. The age to purchase a rifle or shotgun could have been fifty years and it would not have mattered.

SB 506 – AN ACT REQUIRING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM SALES

I OPPOSE this bill. This would accomplish nothing other than to unnecessarily burden the citizens of this state. There is no major wave of crimes being committed with rifles and shotguns changing hands through unregulated, private transfers. Again, Adam Lanza did not acquire the rifle he used (or the shotgun in the trunk of his car) through private sale. He STOLE them. This proposed law could not prevent a recurrence of a theft.

SB 710 – AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS FOR GUN SHOWS

I OPPOSE this bill. There are exceedingly few gun shows in Connecticut anyway. I have a friend in Pennsylvania who can attend a gun show larger than any in Connecticut roughly every two weeks, all within an hour's drive from his home. What problem, what issue is this proposed law supposed to address, and how would it in any way serve to prevent another Sandy Hook, or in any way to reduce "gun violence"?

SB 897 – AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF FIREARMS

I OPPOSE this bill. This bill will do nothing to prevent a recurrence of Sandy Hook, or to reduce "gun violence." All this bill would accomplish is to further burden and harass law-abiding citizens. Criminals do not purchase crime guns from commercial gun shops, they buy them on darkened street corners and in back alleys, or they steal them from lawful owners.

The proposed change in the blood-alcohol limit to be consistent with motor vehicle laws for intoxication is not a problem, although I doubt there is any demonstrable history of incidents where this change would have made any difference. However, in my opinion the State's registration system is already unconstitutional, and I see no purpose to be served by modifying an already useless system to require yet another piece of data: the purchaser's date and place of birth. In reality, C G S 29-33 should be repealed, not amended.

SB 1071 – AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

I OPPOSE this bill. This proposal is nothing more than a tax on the exercise of a lawful, constitutionally guaranteed right. Law-abiding firearms owners are not the problem. Why should we be singled out as the source of income for a "criminal injuries compensation" fund? People who elect NOT to arm themselves and to provide for the defense of themselves and their families are far more likely to be injured or killed by criminal assault. Any such tax should rightly be imposed on that segment of the population most likely to need compensation: those who refuse to provide for their own safety. This proposal is

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

My name is Michael MacCracken and I'm from the town of Plainfield I'm a husband and the father of three young children who depend on me for protection and guidance I am handicapped and find that all the proposed bills will limit my ability to defend my family,home and friends Please do not turn this law abiding citizen into an instant felon I oppose all bills that go against our constitutional rights and the ones listed below God Bless the citizens of Connecticut

- ✓ SB 299 (WE HAVE NO OPINION) AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS
- ✓ SB 505 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR OTHER LONG GUN
- ✓ SB 506 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT REQUIRING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM SALES
- ✓ SB 710 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS FOR GUN SHOWS
- ✓ SB 897 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF FIREARMS
- ✓ SB 1071 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND
- ✓ SB 1076 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE
- ✓ HB 6162 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT CONCERNING INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION
- ✓ HB 6251 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT REQUIRING FINGERPRINTING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS PRIOR TO THE SALE, DELIVERY OR TRANSFER OF ALL LONG GUNS
- ✓ HB 6595 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES
- ✓ HB 6598 (WE OPPOSE) AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC PROTECTION

Michael MacCracken
Plainville, CT

03/12/2013

Jesse Yeager
Canterbury, Connecticut
Public testimony for the Public Safety and Security Committee public hearing

I, Jesse Yeager, oppose all of the proposed legislation that is being discussed today, March 14th, 2013. For the record, the legislation is as followed:

- S.B. No. 299 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS.
- S.B. No. 505 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR OTHER LONG GUN.
- S.B. No. 506 (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM SALES
- S.B. No. 710 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS FOR GUN SHOWS.
- S.B. No. 897 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF FIREARMS.
- S.B. No. 1071 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND.
- S.B. No. 1076 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE.
- H.B. No. 6162 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION.
- H.B. No. 6251 (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING FINGERPRINTING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS PRIOR TO THE SALE, DELIVERY OR TRANSFER OF ALL LONG GUNS
- H.B. No. 6595 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES
- H.B. No. 6598 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC PROTECTION.

I oppose the proposals because they are all "knee jerk" reactions in response to the Newtown massacre. This legislation will do nothing but infringe on the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens. It will literally turn law abiding gun owners into criminals at the stroke of a pen.

To conclude, there is nothing "common sense" about the proposed legislation being discussed today

Richard C. Clavet
 255 Towpath Lane
 Cheshire, CT 06410-3357

March 14, 2013

Public Safety & Security Committee
 Legislative Office Building, Room 2C
 Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Members.

As an American, a life-long Connecticut resident, a tax payer, a law-abiding citizen and a gun owner I strongly **oppose** the most recent actions that will limit, penalize or infringe the rights of the law-abiding gun owner in this state.

Specifically the bills being heard at this public hearing today as listed:

SB-299, SB-505, SB-506, SB-710, SB-897, SB-1071, HB-6162, HB-6251, HB-6595, HB-6595
 and the especially draconian SB-1076

Initially, I was perplexed as to why a contingent of Connecticut legislators has chosen to assault the liberties of the law-abiding citizen due to the action of a deranged individual. Appalled at the murder of innocents, I remained calm and analytical, studying the available facts of the event, studied the onslaught of emotional bill proposals, attended town hall meetings, listened to the perspectives of our esteemed representatives and even have endured the diatribes of our honorable governor.

I've come to the determination that the legislative leadership has chosen a path of least resistance towards legislative gratification

The proposed legislation is nothing more than an attempt to control, coerce and manipulate the law-abiding citizen with unenforceable impotent laws that do nothing to reduce gun violence or violent crime. It is the easy comfortable path that allows this legislative body to declare to the nation we've done something on paper knowing the potential real-life outcome at best will be a net zero effect in reducing crime – or at worst initiate a Chicago-like crime spree in our state. To legislate that the general public does not have the same ability to protect itself in the same manner, using the same tools, as local government agencies when facing the exact same criminal threat is unreasonable. Opponents state that there must be some common ground – this is not it. To state that these proposed laws will provide for increased public safety is fallacious and that, in actuality, the opposite is true when strict gun laws are enacted. The more likely scenario, as proven in Washington D.C, Chicago, Detroit and other metropolitan areas adopting similar legislation, will be a potential increase in the public's exposure to violent crime

To address the root causes of gun violence in the State of Connecticut, this body would have to take the hard road by recognizing the following:

- Admit that mental health issues were primarily at the root cause of the Newtown tragedy.
- Admit that a "gun-free" zone is ineffective.
- Acknowledge that our mental health system has been rendered impotent.
- Effectively deal with violent crime throughout our state by demanding enforcement of existing laws.
- Acknowledge that government can't guarantee personal safety.
- Acknowledge that a plausible solution can't be ascertained until all the facts of the Newtown tragedy are brought to bear via release of the CT State Police report.

Presenting effective legislation to deal with the mental illness system would be unpopular to an ideology that has worked decades to dismantle and dealing with violent crime would force this legislation to ultimately deal with funding its prevention. If the same effort given to anti-gun legislation were given to the state budget, it could be feasible to suggest our current fiscal house would be in order.

Alas, our priorities are skewed and the law-abiding gun owners of this state are the low-hanging fruit.

You will hear plenty of testimony today citing FBI statistics and facts regarding violent crime rates, the overall reduction of those rates in the past decades despite the promulgation of legal firearms and I will defer the presentation of those facts to my compatriots.

I strongly urge you to evaluate these facts when considering your vote on this legislation.

My testimony today, my continued perseverance in insuring I and others remain informed of the actions of this legislative body and my continued activism in securing the future defeat of all Connecticut politicians who support this type of unconstitutional legislation are proof that I am determined to blockade the easy road for this legislative body.

I and many more like me are awakening to the uncontrolled usurpation of power by our elected representatives and your recent actions have motivated the law-abiding citizens of this state. These actions continue to feed the ever growing solidarity of constituents who take responsibility for their own protection and it continues to foment public resentment derived by government intrusion into our guaranteed liberties.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my perspective to this committee, appreciate the efforts of our state legislators and am hopeful that a sensible conclusion is eminent.

Thank you
RCC

Paul Acampora
32 Center Road
Woodbridge, CT 06526

3/12/2013

Members of the Committee:

I want to thank you for accepting my written testimony in regards to several of the currently proposed bills. I am a current active voter in our state. I am a husband and father of 6 beautiful children. I am currently opposed to any new firearms related bills that will take away my rights or hinder my ability to protect myself and my family members. It is solely my responsibility to protect myself, my wife and my family.

I would like to express my opinions in regards to the following bills:

SB299 - AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS I support this bill.

SB505 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE A RIFLE. I am opposed to this bill. I can send my boy to serve in the army and defend our country, but he will not be able to hunt at the same age. This is hypocritical. This will also hinder the ability to teach firearms safety and marksmanship. At an age that is appropriate to learn

SB506 - AN ACT REQUIRING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM SALES I am opposed to this bill. This will add unneeded additional expense and burden to private sales.

SB710 - AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS FOR GUN SHOWS I am opposed to this bill. The increase to a sixty day window is obviously just trying to make it more difficult to have a gun show. Also, there are no standards for suitability stated in the proposed bill. This leaves the decision up to the discretion of the local police chief.

SB897 - AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF FIREARMS I am opposed to this bill. You are not operating a firearm while carrying. This bill is too strict. Compare this to a bill stated "No person shall sit in a fueled vehicle while under the influence" because they may make a bad decision and decide to drive it.

SB1071 - AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND I am opposed to this bill. This is taxation and will not curb gun violence. You are using a tragedy to increase tax revenue. This will not promote small business.

SB1076 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE I am opposed to this bill. This is an increase to the definition of Assault weapon to include firearms that truly are not assault weapons. The current ban has not helped reduce gun violence. Increasing the definition will only make criminals of current law abiding citizens.

HB6162 - AN ACT CONCERNING INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION I am opposed to this bill. This will include individuals that may or may not have mental issues and may inadvertently have effect on others. This bill would need to be carefully thought out.

HB6251 - AN ACT REQUIRING FINGERPRINTING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS PRIOR TO THE SALE, DELIVERY OR TRANSFER OF ALL LONG GUNS I am opposed to this bill. Fingerprints are already on record for all permit holders.

HB6595 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES I am opposed to this bill. This will eliminate the ability for individuals to have a private range on their personally owned property. Many of them do already exist. Also Farms need this ability to protect their livestock.

HB6598 - AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC PROTECTION I am absolutely opposed to this bill. This grants the ability to search and seizure which should be protected by our 4th amendment rights.

Thank you
Paul Acampora

Written Testimony, to **Oppose** Proposed Bills

SB 299, SB 505, SB 506, SB710, SB897 and SB1076

HB 6162, HB 6251, HB 6595 and HB 6598

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I am a lifelong Resident and "Voter" of Our Great" Constitution State of Connecticut.

I am and always have been an avid licensed outdoorsman and sport shooter and I am Deeply Concerned with the Ramifications of the proposed bills as forth mentioned, being that their impact on Violent Crime, Criminals and the Mentally Deranged will be realistically miniscule if nonexistent!

This information is backed by not only governmental and independent studies but by history.

In passing of any one of these bills you will succeed in doing nothing more than trampling the inalienable rights of "Your Constituents" set forth in Constitution of the United States of America, the fabric of our Nation!

Some of the most intelligent men on earth, Our forefathers, Warned us of the attempts on Our rights that could be expected throughout the writings of the Constitution and Bill of Rights as well as all their personal memoirs, which brings to mind a painting by Jon McNaughton, titled, The Forgotten Man; I feel it in everyone on the committees best interest to take a long hard look at, I didn't put much stock in it when first displayed although in today's light it becomes relevant.

We no longer have truthful news, and the only historical examples of gun control always ended disastrously for the People, we all know how History has a way of repeating itself due to ignorance, about the same type of Debacle that befell the arrangement of the U.S. Congress after the passing of the "Assault Weapons Ban" in 1994, this being a very good indicator of the Reaction should that same or similar situation arise in Connecticut!

In closing I will state that other than when in use or being carried a secured firearm is a safe fire arm, I will not discuss "Secure" that falls under common sense which there seems to be so little of these days!, in other words had Ms. Lanza kept her firearms as every Law Abiding person I know including myself does, the events of that day Would Not Have Happened!

Thank You

Sincerely,

Scott E. Berg

March 14, 2013
Public Hearing before the Committee on Public Safety and Security

Good day, Distinguished Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee

✓ My name is Tom Vigilante and I reside in New Haven. I'm here to testify primarily on Senate Bill 1076 and also on Senate Bills 299, 505, 506, 710, 897, 1071 and House Bills 6162, 6251, 6595 and 6598, all in the three minutes I'm allowed. I'm astounded that we have 11 bills before this committee and that we had over 120 gun bills proposed during this session. We can surmise that somebody doesn't want CT's law-abiding gun owners to possess firearms or their components guessing by the sheer number of proposed bills, but maybe I'm wrong. If you **oppose** the anti-gun bills, as do I, then I thank you in advance and ask that you vote accordingly. However, if you **support** the anti-gun bills, then I have issues to raise.

Have each of you read and do you fully understand what's contained in these bills? SB1076 alone is 38 pages long and constitutes a *de facto* ban on most modern firearms and magazines in use today, focusing primarily on the 223 caliber modern sporting rifle with a pistol grip, barrel shroud and detachable magazine and erroneously named an "assault rifle." This firearm, and most modern handguns and long guns, are identified and protected under the U.S. Supreme Court's *Washington DC vs Heller* decision, wherein Justice Antonin Scalia wrote "the Second Amendment extends, *prima facie*, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding." Scalia also referenced the 1939 Supreme Court case *United States vs Miller*, writing "as we have said, the conception of the militia at the time of the Second Amendment's ratification was the body of all citizens capable of military service, who would bring the sorts of **lawful weapons that they possessed at home** to militia duty. [They] would require sophisticated arms that are highly unusual in society at large. Indeed, it may be true that no amount of small arms could be useful against modern-day bombers and tanks. But the fact that modern developments have limited the degree of fit between the prefatory clause and the protected right **cannot change our interpretation of the right**."

I support and ask you also to support SB299, SB506 if there are no costs involved, SB710 which is already a practice, SB897 with its minor changes, and HB6251 whose practice is already employed but not required in CT.

I oppose and ask you also to oppose all of SB1076, SB505, SB1071 as onerous, HB6162 because it pertains to persons outside the control of a firearm owner, HB6595 unless clarified as to the discharge of a firearm for lawful purposes is added, and HB6598 unless a hearing before a court of competent jurisdiction is required before a warrant issues.

How can anyone possibly justify passing bills to help prevent another tragedy without first reviewing all of the pertinent facts necessary to understand the Newtown tragedy? Passing laws now would be an exploitation of that tragedy so we can all feel like we did something good. The people of Newtown listened to both sides and applauded opposing points of view.

It's wrong that some legislators and the governor want to rush the process either to satisfy special interests or put these issues behind them. Some legislators speak of a compromise in order to pass ill-conceived bills for their own sake or to further their own personal agendas. It is the legislators' duty to arrive at solutions based on real facts and evidence, not to come up with a series of band-aids that seemingly pacify one side or the other.

All the facts must be in evidence before these problems can be solved. Meaningful bipartisan solutions that don't demonize a segment of our society are what's needed. What possible good would it do to criminalize a half-million law-abiding gun owners – your constituents – by passing bad laws and making them felons? What kind of a message would it send to the other 3 million people of CT that they may be the next targets of some other ill-conceived set of laws?

Enforce the existing gun laws. Let me repeat that **Enforce the existing gun laws**. Fully fund the task force on illegal guns at \$1 million a year or more. Enforce mandatory 5-year sentences on anyone who commits a crime with a gun. Punish judges and prosecutors who plea bargain gun sentences down by firing them. Do you have the courage to do these things? They will bring criminals to their knees if enacted. We ask that you not let your anger at the killer, or his mother for being so careless, or your emotional reaction at the horrible loss of 26 angels cause you to punish the thousands of law-abiding citizens of this state by trampling on our civil rights guaranteed under the state and federal Constitutions and especially the 2nd Amendment. We ask you to think about this with reason and without the deep emotion that we all share and come to the conclusion that the patriots in Connecticut that possess the legal right to keep and bear arms be afforded those rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights.

My name is Kimberly Gnerre I am a Librarian, wife and mother I do not view myself as someone who would be considered a "fringe of the fringe" citizen of this state just because I choose to own a gun I am against all of these proposed bills save SB 299 as it does not infringe on my Second Amendment rights and it seems to make sense The rest of the proposed bills especially SB 1076, infringe on law abiding CT citizens rights to bear arms These proposed bills will do nothing to deter the criminal element from obtaining weapons to commit further crimes They certainly wouldn't have prevented the tragedy at Newtown There are already laws in place that should be enforced

Thank you for your time,
Kimberly Gnerre
Lakeville, CT

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 6
1768 - 2112**

2013

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Public Safety and Security Committee 3/14/13 - Testimony

Honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is **Judy Aron** and I am a resident of **West Hartford**. Governor Malloy believes me to be "The fringe of the fringe", but I am here today as a taxpayer, a mother, a wife, a citizen of CT and a law abiding person who has a valid CT pistol permit and firmly believes in our Constitutional right - both Federal and State - to keep and bear arms ... un-infringed

We have several bills before us today in this Committee Hearing and I am opposed to ALL of them (except SB299) for the very reasons other people before me and after me will enumerate The numbers and names of these bills are on the back of this paper with my very briefly stated objections. I honestly do not understand how you in good conscience can agree to any of these bills, all of which are completely and utterly ineffective in preventing another Sandy Hook. **What these bills do - and especially SB1076 - is to make it more difficult and expensive for any citizen in CT to legally own and operate a firearm, and thus allow a disadvantage for us and a major advantage to criminals.** Criminals, by definition, will be exempt from these laws, and indeed many of these laws will make existing gun owners instant criminals.

Can any of you explain to me how we are here crafting legislation without a full account from the Newtown tragedy? **Where is the Toxicology Report? Where is the Police Investigation Report?** Why do we not yet have this information after 3 months? Without knowing why Adam Lanza did what he did or what drugs he was on, how can you just blame this all on guns and go full bore in restricting access, and limiting availability and creating more paperwork and on and on and on? Did the current CT gun regulations, some of the toughest in the country, stop Adam Lanza? Not entirely .. From what I heard the system worked and he was denied a permit, but he stole guns anyway He broke perhaps 2 dozen laws - so do you really believe enacting 100 more laws and regulations is going to fix anything? **Truly it won't. Instead you will just be punishing good hard working honest CT citizens for the crimes that Lanza committed.** How will that solve anything? Will it bring back dead children? Of course it won't . and it won't stop the evil we have in our society and the social decay we are witnessing either. **I will wager the only thing that will prevent this tragedy from happening again is not restricting gun ownership, but fixing this incredibly broken Mental Health Delivery System in this state... and making certain that places where our children play and learn are made safe and secure. Where are the proposed laws to do that? There haven't been many.**

I can cite hundreds of cases where open and free gun ownership has saved lives. I can also give you facts and information about how gun restrictions have put people into the position of being unable to adequately defend themselves against evil in the form of criminals and home invaders. Are you just as satisfied to pass all of these bills to create more victims? **Do you know how many bullets I want in my magazine? It is one more than my attacker has.** Do you know what kind of firearm I want to be able to have? One that is easy to use and has the features I choose. **I don't want the State telling me what kind of gun I can own, what cosmetics it can have, and how many bullets I can have in a magazine.** In any crime against me or my family and my home I will be the first responder. **Remember that.**

I have heard various people say - legislators included - "who needs an assault weapon"? First of all they aren't assault weapons, please use the correct terminology, they are firearms. Well, **who are you all to determine what I NEED?** Need has nothing to do with any of this.. **I should have the complete freedom to own and operate any equipment that my local police department has, since they are up against the same criminal element that I am in my own community.**

Aside from all of this - I want to know from you all - have you determined what **all of this ineffective knee-jerk legislation will cost CT in more paperwork, more lawsuits, lost jobs, lost revenue, and lost lives?** The costs are very real indeed. And I will tell you that this gun issue is not a Democrat or Republican issue - it is an issue that affects all of us. **These laws strip us of our ability to determine for ourselves how we wish to defend ourselves against criminals.** I will wager that if you support any of these measures that will further erode our choices, that **whether you are a Democrat or a Republican** you will do so at the peril of losing your next election, because **hundreds of thousands** of average ordinary taxpaying people like me across this State will work very hard to **make sure that people who disregard our firearm choices and our rights, and their oath of office, be unseated the next time election day comes around.** Remember that

Bills being heard on 03/14/13:

1	<u>S B No 299</u> (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS (PS,PS)	Support - This bill should cover ALL mass casualty events, not just an active shooter incidents
2	<u>S B No 505</u> (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR OTHER LONG GUN (PS,PS)	Oppose - People aged 18 to 21 are considered responsible enough to join the military and/or law enforcement - handle real assault weapons and lay down their lives to serve our country, why should they not be able to own a firearm as a civilian? This law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting
3	<u>S B No 506</u> (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM SALES (PS,PS)	Oppose - This is just a bunch of ridiculous time consuming and costly paper shuffling - do you honestly think transferring firearms to family members requires a background check? How much will all this paper filing cost the State? This law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting
4	<u>S B No 710</u> (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS FOR GUN SHOWS (PS,PS)	Oppose - Unnecessary and arbitrary law since local authorities require permits anyway. This law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting
5	<u>S B No 897</u> (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF FIREARMS (PS)	Oppose - Sure people who are under the influence shouldn't use firearms - but the rest of this bill is another bunch of costly paperwork shuffling and would not have done anything to prevent Adam Lanza from his killing spree.
6	<u>S B No. 1071</u> (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND (PS)	Oppose - This bill unfairly taxes one segment of an industry that is already heavily taxed Will we also be taxing knife, bat, and automobile manufacturers and dealers, since those items also kill and maim people? This law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting
7	<u>S B No 1076</u> (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE (PS)	Oppose - This bill is full of arbitrary language and will absolutely do nothing to reduce gun violence - it will only serve to punish gun owners in CT for Adam Lanza's crimes Banning a gun because of what it looks like will not make anyone safer Limiting magazine capacity puts me at a disadvantage to a criminal This law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting
8	<u>H B No 6162</u> (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION (PS,PS)	Oppose - Although I agree with the concept of keeping weapons away from mentally ill people who are considered a danger to themselves and to others, we must be very careful of who we deem to be unfit and the reasons and circumstances behind their receiving mental health care
9	<u>H B No 6251</u> (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING FINGERPRINTING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS PRIOR TO THE SALE, DELIVERY OR TRANSFER OF ALL LONG GUNS (PS,PS)	Oppose - More paperwork designed to clog up the application process at a huge cost to CT taxpayers There is already a 2 week waiting period to purchase a long gun in CT This law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting
10	<u>H B No 6595</u> (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES (PS)	Oppose - This is unnecessary additional law since we already have breach of peace and trespass laws on the books This law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting
11	<u>H B No 6598</u> (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC PROTECTION (PS)	Oppose - This bill proposes gun confiscation. Gun owners will not be compensated for their loss and this law would not have prevented the Newtown shooting