

Testimony

My name is Amira Khoury and I lost a cousin to gun violence this past summer. My cousin Raymond English was murdered on July 4th in North Linden. His killer is unknown. Allowing people to carry guns without a permit is dangerous. It would be easier for people who are at risk of harming themselves or others to get a weapon and cause more tragedies. It would be easier to get a gun than a person who needs an affordable place to live. Why are we so focused on guns when people are living paycheck to paycheck, homeless, not being able to have access to affordable housing, affordable healthcare, and we have been in a pandemic for almost two years?

The plain meaning of the second Amendment in the constitution was for a military and people to protect themselves during times of chaos in the 1700s. Times have progressively changed in the last 200 years with technology advancing, people's way of life changing, security, and morals. Focusing on this bill while there are many circumstances around is unethical and foolish. The framers of the constitution didn't think people would go to schools, places of worship, entertainment centers, and many other places to harm people or themselves. I would like to argue that the second amendment is ambiguous and the framers weren't specific because they weren't thinking far into the future. Now it is time to focus on protecting people from more tragedies, focus on people's well-being, helping people get back on their feet, and putting the American people first, not profit, not guns, the people.