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November 26, 2007

Senator Andrew J. McDonald, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Representative Michael Lawlor, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Senator John A. Kissel, Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee
Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Representative Arthur J. O'Neill, Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee
Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Members of the Leadership of the Judiciary Committee:

My life changed profoundly 126 days ago. From the thousands of communications I have received from so many people in and outside of Connecticut, I understand that others' lives have also been changed. Those horrible events not only took the lives of my beautiful and wonderful wife and daughters, but they also exposed some glaring defects in our laws and their inability to adequately ensure our public safety. Every resident of Connecticut deserves to have those glaring deficiencies in our public safety laws corrected fully and promptly.

It is my understanding that you are meeting to review those deficiencies, and to address how best to deal with them. I know that the legislative process and the political process are closely intertwined. I firmly believe that political considerations should have no place in this debate. From my perspective, the sole issue and the only legitimate focus should be public safety and the protection of the citizens of Connecticut from those who do not respect them or our laws.

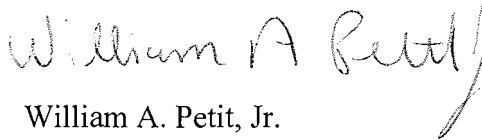
Words cannot express how sad I am that nothing you will do can undo what happened to my family. I write this letter, because it is so urgently important that you, as our legislative body, learn from these awful events and take full advantage of this opportunity to comprehensively change our laws to better protect other innocent members of our society.

History has shown us that reputations are made and legacies are established by how the needs of the people are addressed by those responsible for shaping our government's response to tragic events and the crises that follow them. That opportunity exists now for you and our legislature. I strongly urge you to recognize your potential to do significant good, and to seize the opportunity to put aside political differences in order to make our State safer.

I have been told by many, including some elected officials, that our system failed me and my family. You have the responsibility to correct those failures. I respectfully ask that you do everything you can to work cooperatively together, to make full use of your collective talents and energies, and to bring forward meaningful legislative changes that will better protect the safety of our citizens and ensure that past failures are never repeated.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for your attention to these critically important responsibilities.

Sincerely,



William A. Petit, Jr.

cc: Governor M. Jodi Rell
Senator Donald Williams
Representative James A. Amann
Senator John McKinney
Representative Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr.