

I would like to thank the Committee once again for allowing me to share my message that trading guns for drugs is a very real problem in Vermont. One which not only endangers the lives of Vermonters but also the residents of states where these guns end up.

However, I do have a concern that my comments regarding the usefulness of background checks could have been misunderstood. In response to a question of whether I believed background checks would make a difference I said no—that I didn't believe background checks are useful. That statement, which I stand by, was in reference to the top two tiers of drug traffickers. These are career criminals and frankly, these individuals have little, if any, concern for rules, regulations, or laws.

With that said, I firmly believe that background checks for private purchases would absolutely be a useful tool in preventing not only gun violence but also could hinder the purchase and sale of heroin and other opiates in our state when dealing with those in the third tier of Vermont's drug trade...the addicts. With background checks, there will be fewer guns in Vermont that are untraceable. This will hinder an addicts choices about how to pay for drugs and slows down the pipeline of illegal guns.

Thank you for considering my written followup.