

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Hearing on “Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence:
Protecting Our Communities While Respecting the Second Amendment”

Questions for the Record from

Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley

Questions for Dr. Daniel Webster, Director and Professor, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research: *Dr. Webster’s responses are printed in italics.*

- (1) Your testimony referenced a number of studies on gun violence, some conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, but many others of which you conducted or which were conducted by others and included in your book.
 - (a) Who funded the studies referred to in your testimony?
Funding for each study cited is listed at the bottom of this document.
 - (b) Did you receive any salary, income, or other benefits in connection with funding, conducting, or publishing the result of these studies?
I received my normal salary from Johns Hopkins University for the research that I conducted.
 - (c) If so, who provided the salary, income or other benefits
The Johns Hopkins University.
- (2) Your testimony at page 6 and note 32 states “84 percent of gun owners and 74 percent of NRA members reported that they supported laws requiring a background check for all gun sales.” How was it determined with certainty that the survey respondents owned guns or were NRA members? *They were asked questions on a survey about whether they owned any firearms and whether they were a member of the National Rifle Association.* Did respondents self-identify as falling within these categories? *Yes* Were respondents required to provide proof of their ownership of guns or membership in the NRA? *No*
- (3) Your testimony advocates the banning of so-called “assault weapons.” Many hunting weapons are more powerful and can do more damage to human flesh than many guns that would be singled out in the “assault weapons” bill that is before the Senate. Why is it sensible to ban the guns in the bill that can do less damage rather than the more powerful guns? *Assault weapons have features that facilitate criminal use and an assailant’s ability to rapidly fire a large number of rounds of ammunition and thereby increase both the likelihood of injury and death as well as the number of injuries and deaths in an attack. Such features include the ability to accept large capacity magazines, pistol grips and folding*

stocks on rifles (to make the weapon more concealable), and threaded barrels for attaching silencers. These features are unnecessary for legitimate sporting uses or self-defense.

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