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BILL FINCH
Mayor

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Testimony from Mayor Bill Finch, City of Bridgeport, Mayor Pedro Segarra, City of Hartford, and Mayor John DeStefano, City of New Haven

RE: S.B. No. 1094 (RAISED) AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES.

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

In light of the recent shooting in Tucson, Arizona and the alarming increase in gun violence in our society, we the "Big Three", support the proposed legislation to ban general sales of large capacity ammunition magazines (i.e. more than 10 rounds). This decision will surely ruffle some, but municipal officials must lead and take tough positions for the greater good of public safety and, more importantly, our youth.

Large capacity ammunition magazines are designed to enable shooting mass numbers of people quickly and efficiently without reloading. They have been used in numerous mass shootings including, Tucson, Fort Hood, Virginia Tech, Columbine, and the workplace shooting in Manchester, CT. In the Tucson shooting, further casualties were avoided because the shooter had to stop to reload. Unfortunately, he was able to shoot 20 people in a very short time, killing six, including a 9-year old girl.

Of the seven states that currently ban assault weapons – California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York – ours is the only state which does not include a provision banning large capacity magazine clips. As our work is not done, we must continue our efforts to keep these high – capacity magazines out of the hands of the general public. Each time we attend a funeral for another young shooting victim we are reminded of the need for our continued diligence of this issue.

We have a responsibility to protect our citizens and to ensure that another Tucson, Arizona incident never happens again. We are sure you would agree this is a step in the right direction to fulfill both commitments. As municipal and federal leaders, we ask for your support on this very difficult issue. Until we stand firm, and make a concerted effort to change the status quo, pointless murders will continue. We have a duty and obligation to the victims of senseless gun violence and their loved ones to change this law.

We hope you will join us in supporting this bill. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Finck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Bill Finck
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pedro Segarra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Pedro Segarra
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John DeStefano, Jr.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor