

**Please vote AGAINST - SB1094 – Paul Chotkowski, Farmington, CT**

My name is Paul Chotkowski. I am a 53 year old business person, a father of two girls [Sarah a Junior at Hampshire College and Laura a Freshwoman at Stonehill College], husband to Elizabeth a French Teacher at the Masters School in Simsbury, CT, and a recent first time gun owner. I obtained my Connecticut State Permit to Carry Pistols and Revolvers in early January 2011 and I have been to the range weekly since gaining skills and proficiencies. I am a new member of both the National Rifle Association (“NRA”) and the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc. (“CCDL”). I own a high capacity magazine for my hand gun. I am not an extremist “gun-nut” nor do I own this magazine “for criminal purposes” as reportedly stated by State Senator Edward Meyer (D) at a recent seminar on firearms law.

I would like to raise five points **AGAINST SB1094**

**1. I assert you can not legislate safety, public morality, and individual mental health.**

In support of my claim I offer automobile and DWI driving deaths, the wars on drugs, poverty, illiteracy, and obesity, prohibition, incidents of rape, child abuse, and domestic violence, and the laws already on the books in Arizona concerning public safety, gun ownership and mental health that failed to “protect” the public.

**2. I assert that SB1094 is a solution looking for a problem.**

I am certain that the members of the committee already know that a comprehensive study by the Centers for Disease Control looked at the full range of gun-control measures, including the federal high capacity magazine ban. This study concludes that none of the examined restrictions could be proven to reduce crime.

**3. I assert that SB1094 constitutes an illegal taking as defined by the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, certainly in spirit if not in law and it would be a very bad precedent.**

I am not a constitutional scholar but I do have common sense. Making something I legally purchased, illegal, subject to confiscation without compensation, and using the power of the state to brand me a felon if I do not willingly give up my property is not the America I lauded to my children. What’s next private automobiles? They are undoubtedly a dangerous weapon in the hands of many / most people?

I am certain that the points that I have outline above will be made much more eloquently by more learned citizens than I. I will end on two addition points.

**4. I assert that SB1094 if passed will simply encourage more law-abiding citizens, such as I, to carry additional 10 round magazines.**

Bad guys, criminals, jihadists, and terrorists will continue to carry whatever weapon and magazine they desire without regard to **SB1094**. Needless to say that is a definition of criminal behavior. Law-abiding citizens will alter their behavior to comply with the law but in doing so there will be no material reduction in "bullet capacity" on the street or in the home.

**5. I assert that SB1094 overlooks the practical reality that to change magazines in a modern semi-automatic hand gun takes less than two second.**

I went to the range this weekend to prove to myself the absurdity of the assertion that a reduced magazine capacity would have a material or even noticeable impact on public safety. I have bursitis in my right hand and I am considered a novice by most of my colleagues at the range. Even with these limitation, I was able to fire 11 rounds [one in the chamber and 10 in the magazine] and then on the clock I was able to consistently eject the spent magazine, insert a new magazine with 10 rounds, chamber a round and fire accurately [for me] within two seconds. From my perspective, by definition bad guys, criminals, jihadists, and terrorists will not obey the law and if they did moving the "two second reload window" from the 20<sup>th</sup> bullet to the 11<sup>th</sup> bullet will have no material positive impact on public safety! I would offer to escort anyone that is interested to the range for a demonstration or trail to underscore this point.

In closing, I am and will always be a law-abiding citizen, I am not a criminal nor am I engaged in criminal activity. I frankly take the strongest possible exception to the characterization of my ownership of a 13 round magazine as being for "criminal intent". Taking my legally obtained property without compensation based on Senator Edward Meyer unfounded claim of criminal intent is not the America that I taught my daughters to love and respect.

I love America and our democratic process. This issue is important to me and I assure you that I and my family will work within the political arena to insure that **SB1094** does not become law. We will work actively within our local and web communities to achieve this outcome and we will encourage support of those who share this view and we will work to educate those who do no agree.

To the members of the State of Connecticut General Assembly's Public Safety and Security Committee, I would like to say **THANK YOU** for your time and I would urge you to vote against **SB1094**. Respectfully submitted by

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