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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

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

Good Morning Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Hetherington and Judiciary Committee Membership. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today in opposition to Raised Bill No. 1094, An Act Banning Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines.

Year after year, there are pieces of legislation that attempt to take away the 2nd Amendment rights of law abiding citizens. Senate Bill 1094 is another example of these efforts. I believe this bill is a knee jerk reaction to the awful tragedy in Arizona, but does nothing to help prevent a similar occurrence from happening. Congresswoman Giffords, and the other victims in Arizona, were targeted by an unstable individual with a history of mental illness and drug abuse. SB 1094 would not have prevented this disaster or any of the similar incidents our nation has endured in recent years.

It is telling that some of the most vocal opponents of this legislation I have heard from are members of state and local law enforcement organizations. Many have told me that this legislation will only punish law abiding citizens while still failing to protect us from violent criminals determined to do harm or cause havoc. I have also heard from a large contingent of law abiding, competitive shooters. They too have concerns that this legislation will not accomplish its stated goal and, instead, is an attack on their rights and those who already follow the law.

While large capacity magazines hold a larger amount of ammunition in one clip, banning them would not make a determined shooter any less deadly. As a military officer, I recently had drill at Fort Indiantown Gap, and spent some time on the 9 mm gun range. While it was only my second experience with a pistol, I was amazed at how simply and quickly I was able to change the clip. The act would be no less difficult for a person with malicious intentions.

I understand the desire to increase safety, but I do not believe this bill will accomplish that goal; instead, I believe it will only serve to hamper the 2nd amendment rights of law abiding citizens. It is my opinion that the legislature should spend less time curtailing the rights of our citizens and focus more time fixing the \$3.5 billion budget deficit that is threatening the economic security of our state.

Please visit my website at
<http://repcoutu.com/>