

March 23, 2011

SUPPORT

SB1210 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE TO DEFEND THE RESIDENTS OF A HOME
SB 1206 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF POLICE ACTIVITY BY THE PUBLIC

OPPOSE

SB 1094 AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES

Distinguished members of the Judiciary committee;

I would strongly urge you to **oppose SB 1094**.

Designating a ten round magazine is arbitrary. There is **NO** evidence that a set number of rounds would prevent violence. Setting a limit eases the minds of those who fear guns and nothing more. Why is a ten round magazine safer than a magazine designed for 8 rounds or 12 rounds? The answer is that it is not safer, the number is irrelevant.

Limiting capacity is negated by the fact that you can very quickly change out an empty magazine and then reload a full one—usually in less than 3 seconds if you are experienced. Someone who wishes to cause harm can bring 5 ten round magazines already loaded and reload each time in mere seconds.

The shootings that happened in CT and AZ are a travesty, and one that deeply disturbs most gun owners. However, this legislation will not prevent or eliminate gun violence. No one has stopped to ask the question why a mentally disturbed man in Arizona, who so frightened the teachers at the college he attended that they expelled him, was not then dealt with by police or local officials. This is the source of the problem—not the magazine in the gun.

In the testimony submitted to this committee today, I would ask that you note that opposition to this bill comes from people who are doctors, lawyers, teachers, friends, and neighbors. They are being treated like the enemy—they are being attacked by this legislature and told they are criminals for having firearms that accept magazines in excess of 10 rounds. This committee needs to recognize that a ban on magazine capacity is a waste of energy and affront to the law abiding citizens of this state.

I would also ask that you **support SB 1210**. A citizen should have the right to defend themselves in their home. Many years ago a very dear friend of mine was brutally murdered in her own home by an intruder. I hope the members of this committee can recognize that these tragic events can, and do happen. While we like to believe that we are safe in our homes, there are rare occasions when we are not. This bill would go far to protect the rights of Connecticut residents.

Finally, I would also ask that you **support SB 1206**. There have been many comments made by legislators in recent months about the transparency of government. I am hopeful that these comments are truthful. Ensuring that citizens are able to record police in public places is a related piece of government transparency, so I would urge you to support this measure.

Sincerely,
Amy Stegall
Stafford Springs CT