

March 22nd 2011

144 Mansfield Road
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Good Day,

My Name is Brooke Cheney. I am from Harwinton. I am the mom of two small children, a sport shooter, and I have a husband that travels for work often. I am therefore in favor of SB 1210 castle doctrine and opposed to SB 1094 Mag Ban.

I certainly hope that I never have a reason to use a gun in my own home. However I do want to have the right to defend my life and that of my children should some one invade our home. In our house we have a plan, the 1st part of it is to retreat, use the panic button on our alarm, and call 911. The second part is to barricade the door we have retreated behind, so now some one would have to come through two doors to get to us. If any criminal should do that I would be very confident that he has intent to harm us. My brother in-law accidently set off our alarm one afternoon, it took over 35 minutes for a police officer to arrive. That's a long time to be waiting for help.

I oppose SB 1094 Mag Ban. For those who ask, "Who needs more then 10 bullets?", knows nothing about sport shooting or how guns are manufactured. Enacting this law does nothing but cost the tax payers money. Money that could be spent on programs that have actually been proven to reduce crime rates. I can find no supporting facts that show this kind of ban has any effect on crime. Of the research I have read it shows many possible reasons that criminals do the things that they do, none of them site how many bullets a gun can shoot. Laws only restrict already law abiding citizens, not existing or would be criminals.

When law abiding citizens are stripped of their guns the old adage becomes true. "Out law guns and only out laws will have guns"

If we are looking to protect society lets look at the proven effectiveness of crime prevention. Education and vocational training are at the top of many studies. There are many useful programs that have been proven to reduce crime. I would prefer to see my tax dollars going there.

15 Proven Ways to Prevent Crime--and 23 Ways Not To Identified by University of Maryland Released in 1998

The list of what works includes: * nurses visiting high-risk infants at home * Head Start-type programs with weekly visits by teachers to students' homes * extra police patrols in high-crime "hot spots" * anti-bullying programs in schools * drug treatment programs in prisons * special police units and prison for repeat offenders * rehabilitation programs focused on offender risk factors, such as illiteracy

Lawrence W. Sherman, chair of the University of Maryland Criminology Department and lead author of the report, said that "If this country could do more of what works with money saved from not doing what doesn't, we might prevent millions of crimes annually -- from school shootings to shoplifting."*

Thank you for your time today.

Other studies you may be interested in:

Delinquency Prevention Using Family-based Interventions

<http://extension.unh.edu/Family/documents/parentingandcrimeprevention.pdf>

Just the facts on Gun Control

<http://www.justfacts.com/guncontrol.asp>

Restricting firearms has helped make England more crime-ridden than the U.S.

Joyce Lee Malcolm from the November 2002 issue

<http://reason.com/archives/2002/11/01/gun-controls-twisted-outcome>

"The Impact of Project Safe Neighborhoods on Violent Crime"

Murder Case Focuses New Attention on Mental Illness Treatment

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/02/19/murder-case-focuses-new-attention-on-mental-illness-treatment/>

Dr. Edmund F. McGarrell

School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

<http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/Briefings/McGarrell.pdf>

* 15 Proven Ways to Prevent Crime--and 23 Ways Not To Identified by University of Maryland Released in 1998

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/15-proven-ways-to-prevent-crime-and-23-ways-not-to>