



State of Connecticut

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

RE: S.B. No. 1094 (RAISED) AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES and S.B. No. 1210 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE TO DEFEND THE RESIDENTS OF A HOME.

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. I fear that this proposal will do little to curb crime and will potentially make criminals out of otherwise law abiding citizens.

I am leery of proposals that call for law-abiding citizens to surrender firearms or their accessories, as many of these rights are protected by both our state and federal constitutions. It is unlikely and unreasonable to believe that someone who otherwise unlawfully possesses a firearm would simply surrender their large capacity magazine upon enactment of this legislation.

Large capacity magazines are used by recreational gun owners for competition shooting. This proposal would limit these law abiding citizens' ability to seek recreation in our state.

This proposal may also infringe on the abilities of military and firearm historians and collectors to maintain our heritage. Many large capacity magazines were used in historically important firearms, such as the M1 Carbine and M1A1 rifle, which were used by the men and women of our armed forces during some of the most trying operations of our World Wars:

Futhermore, while I hope the Committee will see fit to let this legislation die, I would ask that if you do move forward with this proposal, that you consider amending Section (d) (1) to include in its exemption Inspectors of the Division of Criminal Justice, Conservation Officers of the

Department of Environmental Protection, and any federal law enforcement officer that may discharge their official duties within the State of Connecticut.

I am also here today to encourage the Committee's support for Raised Bill No. 1210, An Act Concerning the Use of Deadly Physical Force to Defend the Residents of a Home. I strongly support the creation of the presumption that it is reasonable to believe deadly physical force is necessary to defend oneself, or the residents of their home, from a person who has unlawfully entered their dwelling. I believe that all citizens of the State of Connecticut should be allowed to feel safe within their own home and that this proposal helps further that goal while potentially deterring future home invasions.