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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

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Joint Committee on Judiciary
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Chairmen Coleman and Fox and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Raised Bill S.B. 1094, an act banning large capacity ammunition magazines. This act would make a felon of any currently law abiding citizen who did not turn in any firearm magazine capable of containing more than 10 rounds of ammunition by July 1st of this year.

I question the utility of this law. Criminals certainly will not care if they have an illegal capacity magazine for a firearm they also may not legally own. Law abiding citizens of this state are not going to shoot someone once unjustifiably, and certainly not ten or more times. Furthermore, so-called high capacity magazines will continue to be available in other states or through the Internet at the same price they always were.

Additionally, limited capacity magazines will not significantly hamper the ability of a criminal to effect a crime. I can personally change magazines in a semi-automatic pistol in less than two seconds. What is to stop a criminal from simply acquiring more ten round magazines and changing them as he or she runs out of ammunition? It is likely safe to assume that the criminal will have minutes to cause great harm and suffering before police would be able to arrive, another few seconds is not a meaningful impediment. In fact, according to the 1993 Journal of Trauma, criminals with so-called high capacity semi-automatic firearms barely shoot more rounds than criminals with revolvers containing 5-8 rounds... 2.53 shots per incident versus 2.04.

The only effect this law will have is to confiscate the magazine investments of the good citizens of Connecticut, and perhaps un-necessarily create felons out of citizens who have committed no real crime. I fear this bill is simply a reaction to the recent shooting in Arizona, and has no purpose but to make gun control advocates feel that they have done something. Anyone interested in reducing crime would find with just a little research, as I have, that magazine size is irrelevant in terms of the crime rate or the nature of crime committed. We have already been down this road in the much lambasted federal

Bennett C. Prescott
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Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15