

March 23, 2011

Jason Gawencki
Windsor, CT

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Good morning. My name is Jason Gawencki and I am a resident of Windsor, Connecticut. I am here to strongly oppose Senate Bill 1094: An Act Banning Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines and also to support Senate Bill 1210: An Act Concerning the Use of Deadly Physical Force to Defend the Residents of a Home.

I oppose banning high capacity magazines for several reasons. First, it targets law abiding citizens and legally purchased and taxed property. It does not even attempt to restrict violent behavior. It does not attempt to deter crime. It restricts ownership of property because there is potential to misuse that property.

Second, it tries to deprive citizens of property without just compensation. I am not a lawyer, but I would question the Constitutionality of depriving a citizen of their property without compensation, but I suppose that is a decision for the courts to make, at the expense of taxpayers.

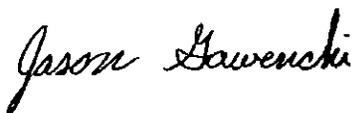
Third, there is much debate about the effectiveness of the Federal Assault Weapons ban which shared similar restrictions on magazine capacity. The various reports that I have come across seem to either suggest that there was insufficient data for evaluation during the decade that the ban was in effect, or that the federal ban was ineffective. While my research is limited, I would have expected to see a clear, direct relationship between magazine capacity and number of casualties in mass shootings. This simply does not seem to be the case.

Fourth, it would be virtually impossible to enforce in the absence of another crime. Any attempts to verify compliance would be in direct conflict with the Fifth Amendment.

Fifth, it is important to realize many modern semi-automatic handguns come equipped with a standard magazine that holds more than ten rounds. The impact of this bill will significantly affect most gun owners directly, while harming gun shops in these dire economic times.

I would strongly urge this committee not to attempt to pass laws that target your law abiding constituents, laws that are unenforceable, and laws that will most certainly be contested in the courts at taxpayer expense. The logic behind this bill is simple: in order to make criminals less efficient at mass killing, the state needs to limit the tools law abiding citizens use to defend themselves. This simply does not make any sense.

Thank you for your time and your continued service.



Jason Gawencki
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