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My name is Linda McAward, I live in Waterbury, CT and I am here in to speak in opposition to SB 1094.

As a member of the NRA and a lifelong shooting enthusiast, I have a question for this committee.

Why 10 rounds?

Why not 12 or 8 or if you really want to go all the way, why not limit magazine capacity to only 1 single round?

Where is the evidence that limiting the number of rounds in a magazine to 10 will decrease crime?

The so-called "Assault Weapons" ban that went into effect in 1994 also put a 10 round limit on magazine capacity. When this ban expired, violent crime did not increase. Violent crime started to decrease 3 years before the ban even went into effect and it continued to decrease even after the ban expired in 2004.

In the United States from 1991 to 2006, total violent crime went down 38% and murder rates decreased 42%. These statistics are from the FBI not the NRA. These statistics prove that the last time the government banned large capacity magazines it didn't make a difference. Crime was going down before the ban went into effect AND it continued to go down even after the ban had expired.

In our country, the burden of proof is not upon those who want to exercise their rights, it is upon those who want to restrict other's rights, and there is no proof or evidence that a 10 round limit on magazine capacity reduces crime. The FBI statistics actually prove the opposite.

Firearms are a hot button issue and there is not a lot of gray area between the opposing sides when it comes to this argument. There are many people out there that would like to see the total elimination of guns from our society but they realize that this is not possible. The next best thing in their eyes is to start chipping away at gun owner's rights little by little by trying to pass legislation like this today.

If this bill passes, we all know that next year there will be another bill attempting to decrease magazine capacity down to 6 citing the same reasoning. We can't let this happen because before you know it, law abiding citizens will all be back to using muzzle loaders.

Thank you for your time.