

Blanchard, Deborah

From: Thom Stevens [6.8thom@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:55 PM
To: judiciary
Subject: Raised Bills 1094 and 1210

To the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Thomas Henry Stevens, and I am writing to voice my opposition to Raised Bill 1094. It has been my great pleasure to live in this state for the past four years, and enjoy the many oppurtunities afforded me and my family in this state. I have enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking and many other activities with friends and family. Both my wife and I have valid pistol permits in Connecticut, We both enjoy going to the range just the two of us and with friends. I own a rifle with four 25 round magazines as well as a Springfield Armory XDM which only has available 16 round magazines, of which I own five. If enacted into law, this bill would make my handgun useless, as Springfield has no intention of producing 10 round magazines at this time. Are you going to compensate me for my four rifle magazines (\$20.00 each), five pistol magazines (\$40.00) and the value of my useless firearm (\$629.00) for a total of \$909.00. A Government has no right to take our personal possesions without fair market compensation, this is part of our Constitution. In addition, going to the range with five 16 round magazines is easier than bringing ten 10 round magazines. Going to the range has been a very enjoyable part of my marriage and several friendships taking away these magazines would make this recreation more of a hassle for eveyone involved. Also, if passed, this Bill would leave high capacity magazines only in the hands of criminals, and how is that right to all lawful gunowners wishing to have the ability to defend themselves against those criminals. This is a Bill looking to advance personal agendas of anti-gun politicians, and to make law abiding citizens criminals. You are our elected officials and are in office to serve your constituents, not further your own agendas. I heard it said that people possessing high capacity magazines are only involved in criminal activities. I find this train of thought offensive and ignorant. I have trained in our military and have for years owned several different firearms with high capacity magazines, and have never used or had the intent to use those firearms for criminal activities. It is a stereotype that needs to be put to an end immediately. Instead, you could pursue strengthening existing laws to increase the punishment for those people who commit crimes with firearms. A magazine ban is not a preventative step in stopping firearms related crime, it is making criminals out of law abiding citizens for possessing what our Constitution (both State and US) grant people as rights.

I would also like to voice my support for Raised Bill 1210, which would make self defense actions in the home more defendable. This would aid in our ability to defend ourselves and our families without fear of facing lengthy court battles and legal costs. It may also serve as a deterrent to criminals comtemplating burglary. This would go a long way to helping the public ensure their own safety and the safety of thier families.

Sincerely,
Thomas Henry Stevens
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