

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

IN SUPPORT of Proposed S.B. No. 547 AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

02/10/11

We support deleting the "selective fire" language from the definition of "assault weapon" in section 53-202a of the general statutes which should never have been included in this statute. Essentially a selective fire firearm is a machine gun since it can fire fully automatic (a single pull on the trigger fires continuously until released); burst fire (a single pull on the trigger fires 3-5 rounds); or semi-automatic (a single pull on the trigger fires 1 round). Section 53-202 defines Machine guns as "Machine gun" shall apply to and include a weapon of any description, loaded or unloaded, which shoots, is designed to shoot or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one projectile, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger" Clearly any selective fire firearm, since it can fire fully automatic or burst fire, is a machine gun.

Machine guns are a collectible item and have high value beginning at about \$5000 and must be registered with the CSP. Transfer of a machine gun incurs a cost of \$200 federal transfer fee. To obtain a federal license for a machine gun, one must gain permission from the local Chief of Police. There has been only one instance of a legal machine gun involved in crime since passage in 1934.

Removal of this section from the "Assault Weapon" bill will allow collectors in this state to collect select fire guns now prohibited.

We believe this is a reasonable change and urge support.