

March 14, 2013

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

Linda W. (last name available from E. Jonathan Hardy, withheld because this is public testimony) jonathan@ctgunsafety.com is his email address.
Meriden, CT

I'm writing to you in response to all of the proposed legislation on the agenda for today's hearing.

I DO NOT support any of the proposed laws.

I am a disabled woman. I am a shooter. I am home most of the time, but took the time to get the proper training required to not only obtain my pistol permit, but also shoot a rifle.

Banning rifles like the AR-15 (by reducing them by one more feature) makes no sense at all. I'm sure you've heard, criminals will not comply with these new laws. The only burden is on law abiding citizens. I have taken additional training from my son who is a certified firearms trainer. There are several reasons why this firearm are a benefit to me:

- Reduced recoil (I have severe bone disorders and I can't shoot with most rifles).
- Safety in ammunition. This ammunition has been tested to be safer for innocent bystanders. We have tested it on drywall and similar surfaces and the self defense ammo does not penetrate outside my home. God forbid I ever need to defend myself, I wouldn't want to endanger innocent citizens.
- Magazine capacity. Standard magazines for the AR-15 are 30 rounds. I can't manipulate the rifle in a way that would allow a quick change of magazines (I just don't think criminals will wait while I reload).
- Modularity – I am able to configure this rifle so that it conforms to my disabilities with the options available. Especially proper lighting.

Magazine bans only benefit criminals. When they can simply drive two hours to pick up anything that is legal elsewhere, I can't understand the logic that they will comply.

The licensing schemes outlined here have NOTHING to do with safety and they are just a cash cow for Connecticut. "We can't ban them entirely, let's just make them unaffordable". Like I said, being disabled, I don't have a lot of money for all these new fees.

Bottom line: Empowering criminals while disabling citizens clearly is a bad idea. I hope you can look at the real issues that would make CT safer. Most notably mental health and school safety.