

My name is David Ouimette from Norwich Connecticut. I am a construction worker who is also furthering my education in Criminal Justice and a member of CCDL.

As a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment supporter, I am here to speak against bills proposed against firearms and their magazine capacity, more specifically, your classification of an "assault weapon" as outlined in S.B. No. 1076. I will not riddle you with facts of these bills not making a difference in the eyes of criminals, nor will I bore you with the numbers of statistics publically available from sound sources such as the FBI.

The reason I am here before you today, is to talk about the many people that use these firearms in sport as well as in self-defense legally; and not only do we follow the law, we are an active part of today's society. The same ones that vote and pay taxes. We have grown up around firearms and were taught safety and responsibility at an early age. For us, it is a way of life through liberty, handed down from one generation to the next, used to create a bond between father and son or daughter now sought after to be banned; I do not look at the AR 15 as an assault rifle as many of you do because it isn't. It is a modern sporting rifle. Same as our cars and trucks on the road, things develop and change over the years. That new Ford no longer looks like a Model-T, your television doesn't need a team of horses to move anymore, and the modern rifle no longer looks like something from the first pilgrimage. Let us be honest to one another, everyone knows it is the look of these guns that scares people not educated to know otherwise. They look like the same ones used in war by soldiers, like automatic weapons, which they are not. They are semi-automatic meaning they only fire one round at a time. The capacity of their magazines should not be an issue either; they still only fire one round at a time.

Companies that put people to work right here in Connecticut, the Constitution state, such as Stag arms who make their living from crafting them are now in jeopardy. Our state has enough problems putting people back to work; these bills will give these companies no other choice but to leave the state entirely. Colt manufacturing and Mossberg and Sons have been here for years as well. They all employ tradesman who take pride in their work, love what they do, and would now have to look elsewhere. I say tradesman because they need real education and skill to do what they do. You cannot just walk in and go right to work, you need the skills. I do not work for any of these companies, I am concerned because as a born and raised Connecticut resident I am proud to say I live in the same state as these manufacturers. Proud of the craftsmanship that comes from their efforts in making things that last generations passed from one to the next.

Instead of voting for the "feel good" measures with knee-jerk reactions, vote for what you know this state really stands for, what is going to keep it going in the right direction which does not infringe on our natural rights at all. At the very least, wait until the report from the Newtown tragedy is released in its entirety to come up with a more common sense approach with the people that do the voting in this state.