

[publicsafety@mail@cga.ct.gov](mailto:publicsafety@mail@cga.ct.gov) Subject: Public Safety and Security Committee  
Marty Isaac, President, Connecticut Against Gun Violence. Trumbull CT

My name is Marty Isaac and I am president of the board of Connecticut Against Gun Violence.

Approximately 2 years ago I stood before the Judiciary Committee to testify about the bill to limit high capacity magazines – right after the attack on Representative Gabby Giffords.

The Judiciary committee did not vote on the bill at that time. Unlimited magazine capacity remains the law of the land.

I was told at the time by some legislators and by many in the audience that limiting the right for an individual to possess a HCAM would put lives at risk.

Stunningly, they were right about putting lives at risk. It is 2 years later and massacre after massacre has occurred across the United States, most recently in Newtown -- all too frequently with weapons using HCAM's.

It is 3 months to the day after that horrific event and still there has been no action here in Connecticut. Why? I urge this committee to accept the recommendations of Connecticut Against Gun Violence to protect the citizens of this State.

I am not alone with this request. We have a broad coalition of over 50 organizations and 350 clergy members – plus literally tens of thousands citizens from across the state that have joined our cause. These thousands of people want this institution to implement safe, rationale gun laws and they want it done now.

Volunteers from across Connecticut have joined our cause because they refuse to accept the status quo. Most notably, two brave women from Connecticut launched the March For Change, a campaign of CT Against Gun Violence – and brought over 5,000 people to Hartford February 14 demanding just that -- change.

When the Supreme Court ruled in the Heller and McDonald decisions, I thought it would be good for America. Once and for all, it was understood that there was an absolute personal right to own a gun.

And once and for all, it was understood that this right is not unlimited. Specifically, the supreme court held: Like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose

So let's be clear. This is not a second amendment issue.

With the limited time I have left, I would like to make a few comments with regard to high capacity magazines. I would like to make the point that simply banning *future sales* is not a satisfactory solution. We support Governor Malloy's proposal and urge this body to also ban the possession of these items. Simply banning future sales will not change the status quo. It would de-facto say to the citizens and the country that the Connecticut of December 14 is perfectly satisfactory. No change required.

Well ladies and gentlemen – That is not satisfactory. In fact, that is completely unacceptable. These dangerous high capacity ammunition magazines need to be removed from our state.

A recent Quinnipiac poll showed Connecticut residents favored a ban of HCAM's by 68% to 22%. Why are you not responding to the people?!

I've spoken to hundreds of citizens across Connecticut over the past 90 days. They are angry. They are scared. And most of all, they don't understand why their own government won't protect them and their fellow citizens.

Hunters, sportsman, gun owners and non-Gun Owners. They are all part of our coalition for change.

This horrible tragedy that occurred in our own backyard makes it all the more clear that this is not a hypothetical discussion. In fact, the consequences of your actions have never been more clear. And I can tell you, the people in our coalition are watching your actions extremely closely.

We can't take back the inaction of this legislative body two years ago. But we can do something going forward. It is time for you to act.