



CT Against Gun Violence

P.O. Box 523 Southport, CT 06890
tel: 203-335-3802
www.cagv.org

Testimony to the Public Safety & Security Committee
Ron Pinciario, Executive Director

CT Against Gun Violence takes the following position on proposed bills:

S.B. No. 1076

This measure is comprised of many separate bills:

1. **Update of Assault weapons Ban.** We do not support this. The statutory language is not strong enough. It still requires two military features in order to be included in the ban for many weapons and it does not add any new makes or models to the 1994 list. A ban on large capacity ammunition magazines also seems to be a serious omission from this proposed bill.
2. **Permits For Rifles:** The language seems to require a permit for purchase or sale of rifles, but not shotguns. We believe all firearms should require permits for sale or transfer.
3. **Eliminating Bulk Purchases and Regulating Ammunition Sales:** We support these measures conceptually but we would like to see clarification of the references to pistols and revolvers
4. **Gun Offender Registry:** We support this as it could be a meaningful deterrent that emphasizes that illegal gun possession and use of guns in crimes are very serious offenses.
5. **Registration of Firearms:** We support the concept but we would strongly suggest that the owner stipulate upon renewal that the registrant is still in possession of all guns listed on the registration renewal form

Bills Supported

1. **S.B. No. 505: AAC THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR SHOTGUN.**
2. **S.B. No. 710: AAC PERMITS FOR GUN SHOWS**
3. **S.B. No. 897: AAC REGULATION OF FIREARMS.** Purpose: Lowering blood alcohol threshold for intoxication level when carrying a firearm.
4. **H.B. No. 6598: AAC PUBLIC PROTECTION.** Purpose: To allow state agencies holding seized firearms to manage their inventory of such firearms without the risk of liability, and to permit peace officers to possess firearms on school grounds, even when off duty.



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The Nation Is Calling Out For Connecticut To Lead By Passing Strong, Smart Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

1. A ban on military style assault weapons that are listed by model name or, if not listed, are semi-automatic weapons capable of accepting detachable magazines and have any military features. Individuals currently in possession of banned weapons will be required to register them by October 1, 2013. Future sales and purchases will be outlawed. Exemptions are proposed for law enforcement officers, corrections officials, and military and naval personnel discharging their official duties;
2. A ban on large capacity magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds. Individuals in possession of magazines with a capacity greater than ten rounds should have until October 1, 2013 to sell out of state, turn over to law enforcement, or permanently modify to no longer be capable of holding more than ten rounds;
3. Expanding safe storage laws that now only call for strict liability if owners are negligent in prohibiting access to firearms by minors under 16. Existing statute should be amended to encompass all individuals ineligible to own a firearm;
4. Requiring universal background checks on all sales and transfers including private sales.
5. Requires registration of all handguns with annual renewal, including updated background check; stipulation that all handguns are still in the possession of original purchaser or transferee; explanation for any handgun not being in their possession. Require safety inspection every three years. Fee on initial registration and renewal to mitigate expense.
6. Requires a permit to purchase and carry all guns, including long guns, and to purchase ammunition.
7. Limits handgun sales to one gun/month.



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Fact Sheet: Strengthen Ban on Assault Weapons and Include Ban on Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines

What the Proposed Bill Does

Our proposed bill strengthens existing Connecticut statute by:

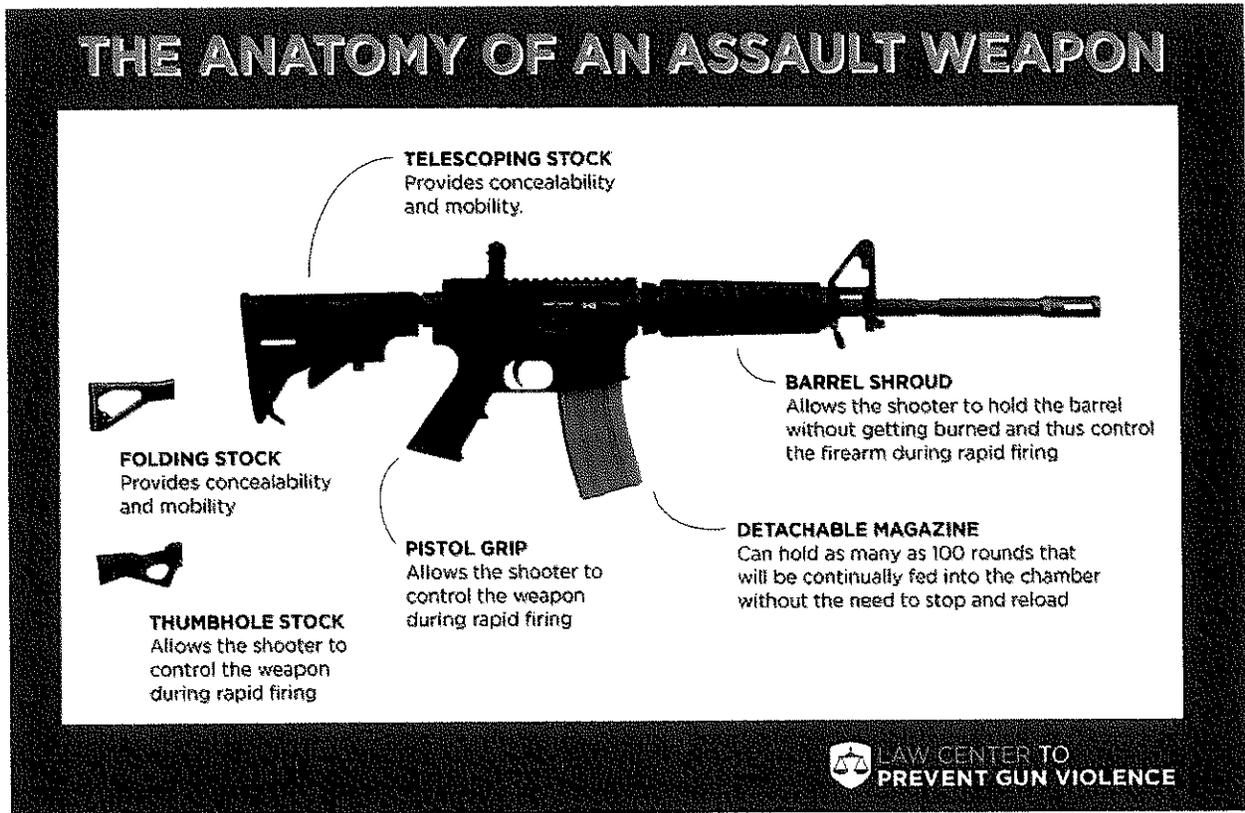
- Banning all firearms outfitted with any **one** of the listed combat-style features (the current statute requires the weapon to have **two** of the features from the list);
- Adds to the list of features to be determining factors in defining assault weapons;
- Includes a ban on large capacity ammunition magazines capable of holding more than ten(10) rounds. Any magazine of more than ten (10) rounds currently possessed must be removed from the state by October 1, 2013.
- The proposed bill will immeasurably increase the public safety by ensuring that the increased lethality and firepower of these military-style weapons will not proliferate in CT.

The Problem

- In Newtown, CT on December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza, armed with an arsenal of fire power and magazines capable of firing hundreds of rounds, killed 26 and wounded 2 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Twenty of the dead were children, aged six and seven, shot multiple times.
- Assault weapons and large capacity magazines have been the tools of choice in the mass shooting in Newtown and most others that are occurring with more frequency in our nation (see attached charts from Violence Policy Center).
- Assault weapons are inappropriate for civilian use and possession due to their unique combination of features designed for military use.
- Our current assault weapon legislation was valuable at keeping many of the most dangerous assault weapons out of criminals' hands, but it was also evaded by gun makers coming out with "copycat" assault weapons stripped of enough combat features to evade the ban.

(OVER)

These are some of the features named in the new proposal. The presence of any one of these military-style features will subject the weapon to the ban.



Other States

- Seven states (including Connecticut) have enacted laws banning assault weapons. The other six are: California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. Of the seven, Connecticut is the only state that did not ban large capacity magazines as part of their assault weapons ban.



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Fact Sheet: Safe Storage of Firearms

What the Proposed Bill Does

- Strengthens laws against gun owners who negligently leave firearms accessible to persons who are not licensed to possess them.

The Problem

- Current CT law imposes liability for damages for any person that knows or reasonably should know that a minor (person under 16) is likely to gain access to a firearm without permission unless the firearm is stored in a location which a reasonable person would believe secure.
- In October of 2000, the U.S. Secret Service published a study of 37 school shootings in 26 states. That study found that in more than 65% of the cases, the attacker got the gun from his or her own home or that of a relative.¹

Benefits

- This Act would make it unlawful for a person to allow any unlicensed person, or a person they believe may cause damage to person or property of another, to have access to a firearm due to failure to appropriately store the firearm for the purpose of restricting access to such persons.
- Criminally negligent storage would be a Class D Felony.

¹ United States Secret Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury, *An Interim Report on the Prevention of Targeted Violence in Schools* 6 (Oct. 2000)



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Fact Sheet: Universal Background Checks

What the Proposed Bill Does

- The proposed bill requires the same background check requirements for the sale or transfer of long guns (rifles or shotguns) as is currently required for handguns.

The Problem

- Rifles and Shotguns accounted for 32.7% of firearms recovered and traced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives in Connecticut in 2011.¹
- Under current Connecticut law, long guns can be purchased from individuals with no permit required, no background check, and no record of sale or transfer.
- Although there is current Connecticut law banning assault weapons, and update and strengthening of that legislation is planned, firearms may be designed to evade the ban. If that occurs, those weapons, which may be extremely dangerous, could be classified as long guns (not assault weapons). Under current law, long guns are not subject to background checks on secondary sales or transfers.

Benefits

- The proposed bill will close the “loophole” that allows persons to sell or transfer rifles or shotguns without complying with requirements applicable to handgun sales or transfers, including a background check on the purchaser and creation of a record of the transfer.

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives , Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information, Report on Firearm Traces With A Connecticut Recovery, 2011.



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Fact Sheet: Handgun Registration

What the Proposed Bill Does

- This bill will require that all handguns owned by CT residents be registered with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and that the registration be renewed annually by all handgun owners.
- Upon renewal, handgun owners will stipulate that they are still in possession of all handguns registered to them.
- Background checks will be done on registrants with each annual renewal.
- Fees necessary to fund the registration process would be applied for initial registration and renewals.

The Problem

- Most gun crimes are committed by persons who are prohibited from owning guns.
- Since all gun sales presumably start with a legal purchase, the problem of legally purchased handguns getting into the hands of prohibited users is a significant and serious one. Unless we have registration and annual renewal, we have no other way of knowing whether a handgun is still in the possession of its legally authorized purchaser.
- Handgun registration laws are an essential component of responsible gun policy because they:
 - Discourage illegal sales by creating accountability for gun owners;
 - Help law enforcement to quickly trace handguns recovered at crime scenes; and
 - Protect police officers responding to an incident by providing them with information about whether guns may be present at the scene. In addition, registration laws that require periodic renewal help ensure that gun owners who have fallen into a prohibited category (e.g., by being convicted of a felony) aren't allowed to continue to possess or own firearms.

Purpose

- To enhance public safety by knowing that handguns owned by CT residents are still in the possession of the legal purchaser, and that the person possessing the gun is still qualified to own and possess a handgun according to CT gun laws.
- This information is critical to determine the frequency, quantity, and source of guns being diverted to illegal owners.

Other States

- Hawaii requires handgun registration. Renewal is not required in Hawaii.



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Fact Sheet: Require Permits For All Firearms

What the Proposed Bill Does

- Requires that permits to purchase and carry guns apply to all firearms, including rifles and shotguns.

The Problem

- Current CT law requires a permit to purchase or carry handguns, but not rifles or shotguns. The proposed bill would require permits for all firearms.
- Rifles and Shotguns accounted for 32.7% of firearms recovered and traced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives in Connecticut in 2011.¹

Benefits

- Helps increase compliance with existing firearms laws by requiring all gun owners to demonstrate their knowledge of gun laws through the permit training process.
- Helps protect public safety and reduce gun deaths and injuries through better knowledge of safe storage and use of firearms.

Other States

- Four states: Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New Jersey require permits for all firearms.

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information, Report on Firearm Traces With A Connecticut Recovery, 2011.



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Fact Sheet: Limit Handgun Purchases to One Per Month

What the Proposed Bill Does

- The proposed bill will limit the number of handguns that can be purchased by an individual to one per month.

The Problem

- Gun traffickers, often with the aid of “straw buyers” (persons who have no prohibitions that will cause them to fail a background check and can therefore purchase handguns) can currently buy large numbers of handguns from gun dealers and resell them on the street to criminals.
- Bulk sales usually reward the buyer with a discount that then increases the profit in gun trafficking.
- Handguns sold in multiple sales accounted for 20% of all handguns sold and traced to crime in 2000.¹
- (Since passage of the Tiahrt Amendment, this information is no longer available to the public).

Benefits

- Traffickers would have to arrange more purchases, and thereby increase the risks of being caught, to accumulate the same number of guns for resale on city streets.
- Because of the loss of the possibility for bulk discounts, traffickers would have less profit, and therefore less incentive, to traffic in guns.

Other States

- Currently three states, California, Maryland, and New Jersey ban sales of more than one handgun per month to the same individual.
- California also requires that firearm dealers must conspicuously post in their premises a warning in block letters at least one inch in height notifying purchasers of the restriction.

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, *Crime Gun Trace Reports (2000) National Report*, Washington, DC: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (July 2002). P.52



Violence Policy Center

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW 202.822.8200 voice
Suite 1014 202.822.8205 fax
Washington, DC 20036 www.vpc.org web

**Mass Shootings in the United States Involving
High-Capacity Ammunition Magazines**

Sandy Hook Elementary School Newtown, Connecticut December 14, 2012 Shooter: Adam Lanza	28 dead, (including shooter)	Bushmaster assault rifle, 10mm Glock pistol, 9mm Sig Sauer pistol	30-round magazines
Century Aurora 16 movie theater Aurora, Colorado July 20, 2012 Shooter: James Holmes	12 dead, 58 wounded	Smith & Wesson M&P15 assault rifle, .40 Glock pistol, Remington 12 gauge shotgun	100-round magazine
Safeway parking lot Tucson, Arizona January 8, 2011 Shooter: Jared Loughner	6 dead, 13 wounded	Glock 19 pistol	33-round magazine
Shreveport, Louisiana August 16, 2010 Shooter: Marcus Donte Reed	3 dead	Assault weapon	30-round magazine
Hartford Distributors Manchester, Connecticut August 3, 2010 Shooter: Omar Thornton	9 dead (including shooter), 2 wounded	Sturm, Ruger SR9 pistol	High-capacity magazine (capacity unstated)
ABB, Inc. St. Louis, Missouri January 7, 2010 Shooter: Timothy Hendron	4 dead (including shooter), 5 wounded	Romarm AK-47 assault rifle, Tristar 12 gauge shotgun, Hi-Point .40 pistol	2 "banana-style" high- capacity magazines (capacity not stated)
Fort Hood Fort Hood, Texas November 5, 2009 Shooter: Nidal Hasan	13 dead, 34 wounded	FN Five-seveN 5.7mm pistol	30- and 20-round magazines
LA Fitness Center Collier, Pennsylvania August 4, 2009 Shooter: George Sodini	4 dead (including shooter), nine wounded	Two 9mm pistols, .45 pistol, .32 pistol	30-round magazines

American Civic Association Binghamton, New York April 3, 2009 Shooter: Jiverly Wong	14 dead (including shooter), 4 wounded	9mm Beretta handgun, .45 handgun	30-round magazine
Alabama, multiple locations March 10, 2009 Shooter: Michael McLendon	11 dead (including shooter)	Two assault rifles	High-capacity magazines taped together
Walt Lou Trailer Park Stafford, Virginia May 5, 2008 Shooter: Aaron Poseidon Jackson	4 dead (including shooter)	WASR-10 assault rifle, Smith & Wesson .38 revolver	30-round magazines
Westroads Mall Omaha, Nebraska December 5, 2007 Shooter: Robert Hawkins	9 dead (including shooter), 5 wounded	WASR-10 assault rifle	Two 30-round magazines taped together
Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia April 16, 2007 Shooter: Seung-Hui Cho	33 dead (including shooter), 17 wounded	Glock 19 pistol, Walther P22 pistol	15-round magazines
Hunting Camp Birchwood, Wisconsin November 21, 2004 Shooter: Chai Vang	6 dead, 3 wounded	SKS assault rifle	20-round magazine
Edgewater Technology Inc. Wakefield, Massachusetts December 26, 2000 Shooter: Michael McDermott	7 dead	AK-47 assault rifle, 12 gauge pump- action shotgun	60-round, large-capacity feeding device
Xerox Honolulu, Hawaii November 2, 1999 Shooter: Byran Uyesugi	7 dead	Glock 17 9mm pistol	Three 15-round magazines
Wedgewood Baptist Church Fort Worth, Texas September 15, 1999 Shooter: Larry Gene Ashbrook	8 dead (including shooter), 7 wounded	Sturm, Ruger P85 9mm pistol, .380 pistol	Three 15-round magazines

Pettit & Martin Law Offices San Francisco, California July 1, 1993 Shooter: Gian Luigi Ferri	9 dead (including shooter), 6 wounded	Two Intratec TEC- DC9 assault pistols, .45 pistol	40- to 50-round magazines
CIA Headquarters Langley, Virginia January 25, 1993 Shooter: Mir Aimal Kasi	2 dead, 3 wounded	AK-47 assault rifle	30-round magazine
Luby's Cafeteria Killeen, Texas October 16, 1991 Shooter: George Hennard	24 dead (including shooter), 20 wounded	Sturm, Ruger P-89 9mm pistol, Glock 9mm pistol	17- and 15-round magazines
General Motors Acceptance Corp. Jacksonville, Florida June 18, 1990 Shooter: James Pough	10 dead (including shooter), 4 wounded	M-1 rifle, .38 revolver	30-round magazines
Standard Gravure Corporation Louisville, Kentucky September 14, 1989 Shooter: Joseph Wesbecker	9 dead (including shooter), 12 wounded	AK-47 assault rifle, 2 MAC-11 assault pistols,.38 revolver, Sig Sauer 9mm pistol	30-round magazines
Cleveland Elementary School Stockton, California January 17, 1989 Shooter: Patrick Purdy	6 dead (including shooter), 30 wounded	AK-47 assault rifle, Taurus 9mm pistol, unidentified pistol	75-round drum magazine
Palm Bay shopping center Palm Bay, Florida April 23, 1987 Shooter: William Cruse	6 dead (including 2 police officers)	Sturm, Ruger Mini- 14 assault rifle	Five 30-round magazines
McDonald's San Ysidro, California July 18, 1984 Shooter: James Huberty	22 dead (including shooter), 19 wounded	Uzi Carbine, Browning 9mm pistol, Winchester 1200 pump-action 12-gauge shotgun	25-round magazine