

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

There has been a lot of misinformation floating around since the Newtown incident. One is that reducing the number of bullets in a magazine will increase a time of opportunity for police action. That is truly not the case! Even an inexperienced gun handler can release an empty magazine and reload a new one in a fraction of a second if they are prepared to change them rapidly. The one big thing I can't understand is why the people who want to push more "gun control" laws typically have never even touched a gun before, never mind actually used one! The problem in general now is that people are panicked! They now have it in their minds that guns = death. A gun is not meant to kill, it is meant to protect! I understand the need to protect children (it's human nature), but when you only think with emotion you make rash decisions. It's also been proven by statistics from the FBI and the DOJ that when strong gun laws or bans were implemented in high crime areas gun violence did NOT decrease. As a matter of fact, the gun violence actually increased. This information is actually available on the related websites. If gun laws were really that effective then as Henson Ong testified at the public hearing held on Jan 28 2013 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, then places like Detroit would be one of the safest places in the country.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyYYgLfzU&list=FLA-oAEhTS2lhjnQKqZy0qIq&index=15>

The 2nd Amendment aside, if you were to read the Connecticut STATE Constitution it clearly states in Article 2; Section 15:

"Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

You have wonder why people thought the right to bear arms for "PROTECTION" was important enough that it had to be mentioned in both documents. It has nothing to do with hunting, the key word is defense! In regards to magazine capacities, read up on the statistics in which police discharge many bullets but only sparsely hit the intended targets. Why do they need so many bullets in their guns? If they can't hit their targets accurately with what you refer to as a "High Capacity" magazine, what do think that someone who is not trained to handle that kind of situation will fair with a LOW capacity magazine? The members that are trying to push this new laws were offered to take part in self defense courses but refused to accept these invitations. How can you make decisions for other people when you have no knowledge of the subject yourself?

If you truly think guns are the issue then I challenge you to read about an incident that occurred 1927 in Bath, Michigan by a man named Andrew Kehoe (which contrary to popular belief was THE WORST school disaster to happen to date). In this case a madman very methodically over time plotted to kill as many people as he could, which included 38 children. Not one gun was used to kill one of these poor individuals. This is an article that explains what this mentally unstable person did that day:

http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/history/bath/index_1.html

With all the laws that were broken on December 14th who is being punished for those? Unfortunately, no one. If you couldn't enforce those laws then what makes you think MORE laws will keep this type of incident from happening again? I hope you're going to make sure all the gang members turn in their guns too! And if the LAW-ABIDING are going to be limited, then I hope the same should be true for the police! If you add more laws to the citizens that live in a state that already have an over-abundance of gun control laws (CT has more gun laws than almost any other state in the country), then people WILL start moving out of the state along with several gun manufacturers. It's nice that the state's ELITE can make decisions to protect their own because they feel fear, but not every town in the state is like Greenwich, Fairfield, or Westport. We can't all afford to buy personal security to patrol our neighborhoods. Things happen, and we the people should have the right to defend ourselves if the police (whom according to the U.S. Supreme Court has no requirement to provide protection to the citizens) cannot be there at the moment they are needed.

http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/04-278.pdf

Thank you for time and consideration,
Brian P Sokolowski