

I am writing you as a Connecticut property/home owner, and as a sportsman and competitive shooter. I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation to ban so-called "assault weapons" and "large" ammunition magazines. I am one of several million citizens who will be negatively impacted by this bill. As a competitive shooter, I lawfully use semi automatic pistols and "assault rifles" several times a week for sport. Some competitions require 30 round magazines. I spend a fair amount of time around people with similar interests, and I know that the majority of gun owners are responsible people with safety in mind.

Tens of millions of Americans choose to own semi-automatic firearms with ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds for the same reason as law enforcement officers: they are effective for self-defense. One never knows how many rounds he or she will need for self-defense or defense of others, or how many criminals may attack. Thus having a firearm that allows its lawful user to discharge multiple shots can often be the difference between life and death. In fact, a number of studies have shown that firearms are used for self-defense hundreds of thousands of times to 2.5 million times annually. This amounts to guns being used 3-5 times more often for self-defense than to commit a crime.

Rather than expanding previously failed legislation that won't curb violence, but will affect law-abiding gun owners, I urge you to support legislation to enhance school security and improve our nation's ailing mental health system. Sen. Feinstein said "The one constant in all these killings is a gun". This is simply not true. The one constant is the mentally insane person. The Oklahoma City bombing is a perfect example of this. On April 19, 1995 (less than a year after the 1994 assault weapon ban was passed), Timothy McVeigh killed 168 people, including 19 children under the age of 6, and injured more than 680 people in a matter of seconds without the use of a gun at all. A gun isn't what causes these people to heinously murder innocent victims. Mental instability is.

I appreciate your time and I thank you for considering my position on this topic. Have a great day.