

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the several House and Senate bills offered for consideration during the 2013 legislative session regarding limits on the capacity of ammunition feeding devices and expanded definitions for assault weapons.

"Every citizen has the right to bear arms in the defense of himself and the state" Article 1 Section 15 of the CT Constitution.

Every citizen of CT has an enumerated constitutional right to bear arms for the same purposes that we issue weapons to police, in defense of himself and of the state. Police cannot be everywhere at once. Even if they could, police have no general duty to protect individuals (Warren v. District of Columbia). Thus, it is my opinion that those who choose to bear arms in defense of self should have the same tools police have at their disposal.

I have heard it argued that most defensive uses of firearms require less than 10 rounds, so anything over that is unnecessary. I think it is important to remember that the right to self defense is a fundamental right, a natural right. Such rights are not subject to anyone's sense of what you or I need. If applied to the right to privacy, speech, religion, due process or any of the others we too often take for granted, the folly of such reasoning becomes clear.

Lastly, I cannot overstate the distrust I have for the motives of those who claim to seek middle ground and only want "reasonable" restrictions. Even if every gun related bill proposed for this session was passed into law, I have no confidence they would continue to satisfy their proponents past the next school shooting. The problem is that the middle ground consistently moves away from the rights of gun owners, and almost always in response to violence perpetrated by someone who has no regard for the most basic law we have. Just as our rights cannot be subject to another person's sense of what we need, our rights must also not be trampled for the meager and uncertain benefit of making the violence of a madman less effective.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Adam Aceto  
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