

I am a gun owner myself, I am extremely concerned that an activity that means a great deal to me may soon be under attack by my own state government. Events last week in New York show that those with a longstanding agenda will take advantage of an unusual, and thankfully rare tragedy to further their political goals. History has shown that those lawmakers with longstanding agendas against firearm ownership will use any opportunity to chip away at the civil rights of the people of this nation.

I am not against licensing, and background checks, which already occur in CT, and run quite smoothly and effectively for both buyer and seller alike, allowing law abiding citizens to purchase a firearm, and preventing those who should not. I am however, very much against expanding the so-called "assault weapon" ban, as this affects only cosmetic characteristics of common firearms, and began as a political ploy to reduce gun rights through appeals to fear of the "scary black gun." That said, any registry is also doomed to fail, history has shown, in Canada, Great Britain, Australia, California, and New York City, for example, that any registry will inevitably lead to confiscation.

Informed persons know that true automatic weapons, machine guns, are for all intents and purposes not available to the general public, and those pushing for further restrictions depend on the lack of knowledge in the general public who believe the hype that these are military weapons in fact, not merely rifles similar in appearance.

I am also in opposition to further restrictions on magazine size, for several reasons, first, that limiting to ten rounds per magazine is ineffective, as reloading is a very rapid process, and second, a 7 round limit as was passed in New York this week makes nearly every firearm useless, since no such magazines exist. This sort of ban has failed Supreme Court examination in the past as well.

Restrictions on purchase of ammunition would be similarly harmful for hundreds of thousands of Connecticut citizens, as many use a great deal practicing, and shooting with friends and family. It is a common sight at my club to see parents and children spending an afternoon outside, learning safety, hand eye coordination, and good manners, while having a wonderfully fun time. In these economic times, we save money where we can, and like buying paper towels at Costco, we buy ammunition in bulk as well. I urge you to not allow a political frenzy to place undue hardship and burden on law abiding citizens, and infringe on our dearest civil rights.