

Dear Members of the Bipartisan Committee on Gun Violence,

I respectfully ask you to OPPOSE the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) proposal to ban semi-automatic firearms (by changing the definition of Assault Rifle) and standard capacity magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds as it is currently proposed.

This proposal is a knee-jerk reaction by Sen. Looney to what happened in Newtown, caused by a mentally-deranged man who, would certainly NOT pay attention to this proposed new law nor the laws against killing someone.

This draconian measure will also affect non-gun owners because all Connecticut taxpayers will be forced to foot the bill for the extraordinary process of having state police officers, who are already understaffed and overworked, confiscate -- from law-abiding citizens -- the millions of magazines already in the state and legally owned by law-abiding citizens. Some guns would become inoperative without these magazines. Even worse, manufacturers including Colt, C Products, Mec-Gar, OKAY Industries and Metalform will be directly affected by this legislation. That means a loss of jobs and tax revenue to the state.

Arbitrarily limiting magazine capacity and threatening law-abiding gun owners with confiscation and felony charges won't stop OUTLAWS from committing gun crimes. They will accomplish the same thing with two guns loaded with 10 rounds each as they would with one gun loaded with twenty rounds. That's why they're called "OUTLAWS." These magazines are utilized every day for home defense and the shooting sports. As was the 1994 "assault weapons" ban, the banning of higher capacity magazines as a gun-control strategy will be a failure. Studies by no less than the Centers for Disease Control looked at all gun-control measures, as they apply to law-abiding citizens and are ignored by OUTLAWS, including this ban, and concluded that none could be proven to reduce crime. Another study, commissioned by the U.S. Congress, found that bans were not effective since "the banned weapons and magazines were never used in more than a modest fraction of all gun murders" and OUTLAWS don't pay attention to gun laws!

Limiting ownership of guns based on looks also seems fruitless and absurd. You must focus on the root cause of the incident which some of the proposals may address such as licensing for all gun purchases, insurance that guns not under their owners control are locked or cannot be obtained by unauthorized users, better gun training and more effective background checks to identify potential user issues. I agree with these aspects of the proposal and only these.

Why not eliminate all gun limitations and base possession on training levels? In other words I have taken and passed the required training, passed my background checks, have adequate security while the weapon is not under my control, and now I can possess any firearm no matter the configuration.

I am also concerned as to the make-up of the committee proposing these restrictions. Where are the voices of the gun owners represented? People that have never owned or used a fire arm should not be proposing regulations regarding firearms. Do we hire people to design aircraft parts that know nothing about aircraft? The ability to protect ourselves is unique in the world and must be preserved.

If you truly care about reducing crime and keeping our children safe, I ask you to oppose most of these gun control measures as proposed other than the ones addressing root cause (outlined above), and instead focus on improvements to our states and nation's mental health system and enhancing security at our schools and better training and background checks..

Connecticut's CAGV statistics also indicate that " in Connecticut, more than 85 percent of gun crimes are committed by people who cannot legally purchase guns". Thus I ask, why are you attacking legal firearms owner in the state? Me having 10 rounds in my firearm instead of 12 or 17 (typically provided with the purchase of a handgun) is not going to make any difference in the number of gun crimes perpetrated in the state. Please do not take it out on legal gun owners.

Please OPPOSE this bill, stop the infringement upon our Second Amendment rights by those who don't even understand firearms. Instead, approve more funding for statewide anti-crime task forces, remove judges who plea-bargain away gun crimes, and make any gun crime subject to a mandatory 10-year prison sentence without parole. It's time to impose an OUTLAW ban. Get tough with the BAD GUYS and leave the GOOD GUYS alone.

Sincerely,

Anthony Agnese
Hamden