

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2010 our home was invaded. There were no less than 2 men in the house and one get away driver. We know this because my pregnant wife nearly walked in on them. The only thing that stopped her, is that the intruders locked the garage door, forcing her around to the front door to get in. From there, she could clearly see the men in the house and in her terror, she went in to force them out.

We are lucky. They ran. The fact remained in my head that my wife, with child, could have been brutally beaten, raped, and killed. That fact changed my view of gun ownership forever.

I now have a carry permit. I have a small carry weapon, but my primary defense weapon is a 17 round 9mm handgun. I chose it specifically for the round count. I only have to keep one magazine at ready at all times. Anything more than that and I am probably in very serious trouble.

Changing a magazine only takes the average person about 4 seconds. Even someone unfamiliar with guns could handle that motion. It's not changing clips that bothers me about the thought of reducing magazines to 10 rounds. What bothers me is the idea of having to manage more magazines. A gun with one 17 round magazine is a fixed package. A gun with a 10 round magazine and an additional magazine opens up problems with how ammunition is managed while maintaining the same level of safety.

A 10 round magazine will also move me away from a smaller 9mm round to a 40 or 45 caliber round as I don't see how 10 rounds of 9mm will have sufficient stopping power when facing three men as my wife did. Again, this is a move I am not interested in making as a fatality is far more likely with larger ammunition. I am not interested in killing anyone.

I hope you consider the unintended consequences in limiting magazine sizes. A 15-17 round 9mm handgun is an average, practical defense weapon. Forcing people to adapt to 10 round magazines will without question promote a shift to higher power ammunition and/or leave a greater exposure to external ammunition. Considering the average time it takes to exchange magazines, I just don't see what is gained.

I strongly advocate strict background checks and I support making medical records available to complete background checks. If the information is presented in a Pass/Fail manner, I believe it still protects the privacy of individual. I also believe in providing educational information on how to best store weapons and ammunition.

As I mentioned I have two small children. My older boy is in school with a staff of all women – none of whom I believe to be armed or capable of dealing with an armed intruder. I am an advocate for concealed carry/plain dress security at all schools. We currently put more energy into protecting national monuments than we do protecting the future of this country. If having security in schools alerts children to the potential dangers of the world, we are simply turning a blind eye if we chose to them unprotected so we can feel more positive about the world we live in. I am a very large man. I know someone my size would need no more tools than himself to create a level of destruction not unlike Newtown. It has nothing to do with guns; please protect our children.

Thank you for your time,

Anthony Albano
Wilton, CT