

Testimony of B. Shim (Wilton, CT) / January 28, 2013

Opposed to bills HB 5647 and SB124 and those similar to them.

I come before you deeply concerned about numerous bills that may affect many responsible citizens in the state. I am opposed to bills that ban entire categories of commonly owned firearms. I also oppose magazine restrictions.

Laws which limit magazine capacity to ten rounds reduce the ability of responsible citizens to defend themselves.

Firstly, "good guys" with ten round magazines are at a disadvantage versus "bad guys" who may be armed with more.

Secondly, ten round limits don't reduce the danger of mass-shootings, because a criminal can learn to quickly reload a firearm. A modern firearm can be replenished by ejecting a spent magazine and inserting a loaded one in a few seconds. This weekend, we demonstrated this with one of your colleagues who accomplished this feat in two seconds. Recall that one of the two handguns the Virginia Tech shooter used held only ten rounds. According to press reports, Adam Lanza didn't use all 30 rounds in some of his magazines (he reportedly shot as few as 15 before reloading). Both mass shooters reloaded. **The Virginia Tech Review Panel concluded that ten round magazines "wouldn't have made much difference."** (Source: Virginia Tech Review Panel, Report of the Review Panel, Chapter VI, Page 74. April 16, 2007).

Thirdly, defense is not the same as offense. The criminal picks where and when the attack happens – he has the element of surprise and the initiative. The responsible citizen is reacting under stress and his or her marksmanship may be reduced by 50%. The defender may need more than ten rounds. An ambushed defender's ability to reload under stress is impaired. The magazine in the gun may be all the defender has.

Fourthly: An armed citizen may deal with multiple adversaries. It happened to me. I was pulled into a situation where six individuals were assaulting an innocent person. I was legally carrying my pistol. As I feared for the victim's life, I drew my firearm and stopped the attack. Thankfully, not a shot was fired, but if I had to shoot and had only ten rounds in my magazine instead of fifteen, I might have been in trouble.

A magazine ban will affect many people. There are 180,000 pistol permit holders in CT and likely a multiple of that number who own rifles. There are likely *tens of millions of standard capacity magazines in CT* according to an estimate quoted in an April 2011 OLR Report (OLR - "Questions on Large Capacity Magazines" / 2011-R-0158). **The economic burden to gun owners associated with replacing magazines could easily be in excess of tens of millions of dollars.** This is a substantial property taking.

A magazine ban will affect many people. With the stroke of a pen, hundreds of thousands of citizens are in jeopardy of becoming criminals.

Because, ten round magazines aren't available for some older firearms, and seven round magazines just aren't available for most modern firearms, **many firearms will be rendered useless.**

I would like to bring the Committee's attention to a statement by the New York State Sheriff's Association, dated January 26 in response to the passage of NY SAFE ACT:

"Reduction of ammunition magazine capacity. The new law enacts reductions in the maximum capacity of gun magazines. We believe based on our years of law enforcement experience that this will not reduce gun violence. The new law will unfairly limit the ability of law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms in New York. It bears repeating that it is our belief that the reduction of magazine capacity will not make New Yorkers or our communities safer."

Source: <http://www.nysheriffs.org/articles/sheriffs%E2%80%99-response-ny-safe-act>

As our legislators consider proposed legislation, I ask that care be taken not to pass laws that make today's "good guys" next month's "bad guys" and provide no improvement in public safety.

I reiterate my opposition to bills such as HB 5647 and SB124 and those similar to it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.