

To: "Gun Violence" Prevention Working Group

Date: January 28, 2013

Subject: Testimony to the Subcommittee on Gun Violence Prevention

Honorable Co-Chairs Looney and Martin and honorable members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon.

I understand your desire to be responsive in enacting legislation to control violence in light of the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

As your constituent and a concerned citizen I am here to ask the special bipartisan task force to give common sense consideration to the subject of "high-capacity" magazine and "assault rifle" restrictions.

I believe the proposals to impose limitations on the capacity of a magazine to be overly restrictive in that they would render a firearm ineffective in a self-defense situation.

I know that restrictions of 10 round magazines or even less, one round magazines are being proposed. Ten round magazines would probably be insufficient in a self-defense situation.

Recent studies on self-defense shootings have shown hit rates of less than 20 percent even in situations involving law enforcement officers (LEO). If a perpetrator points a lethal weapon at a LEO, that LEO has every right to stop the threat just like "We The People..." have the right to defend ourselves.

If only one-in-five rounds hit the target, and you limit magazines to 10 rounds, there's a good chance you will not be able to stop the threat. Of course, the criminal who does not obey the law will not be limited when it comes to their own magazines, putting those who want to do you harm at a significant advantage.

During a self-defense situation you want to avoid manipulating the weapon except for pulling the trigger. Law enforcement and civilians do not favor high-capacity magazines so they can shoot more rounds, they favor them so they can manipulate their weapon less and concentrate on defending themselves.

Many pistols have an integral design feature of 15 round magazines. I ask that you use common sense in not reducing the standard capacity of magazines that would render these firearms ineffective for the public to defend themselves.

In Connecticut we currently have some of the most restrictive bans on semi-automatic rifles in the country. These personal defense weapons, semi-automatic rifles, sport rifles or patrol rifles (whatever you want to call it) are a reasonable choice for self-defense in your home.

These firearms – in the hands of the public – are referred to as "assault weapons" by the anti-gun crowd and yet the same weapons used by law enforcement are referred to as patrol rifles. As such, law enforcement and those who have taken the step to own one have found that –

along with a being a good sporting rifle for target shooting and hunting rifle – they are a reasonable choice for self-defense in the home.

I ask that you use common sense in not extending the current restrictions of what is considered an "assault rifle" under the Connecticut Law about Firearms Sec. 53-202a. Assault weapons: Definition.

I trust you will honor your Oath of Office in the State of Connecticut by being responsible to your constituents in support and defense of Article 1, Section 15 of the Connecticut Constitution that "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state".

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely

Brian Fromm

Glastonbury, Connecticut