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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

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My name is Leonard Benedetto, I am a resident of Stratford.

I am also a Founding Member and the Vice President of Connecticut Citizens Defense League. The states largest Grassroots pro 2A organization. With membership of over 3500 and counting.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group thank you for having this hearing today. I appreciate you giving us an opportunity to speak with you on this very important subject.

The insane act of one teenager has turned our state and country up side down. There have been over 100 gun related bills submitted by yourselves and the rest of the legislature. Having read them, I know that some of you have already made up your minds about what you wish to impose upon us legal gun owners. So I suspect that plenty of the testimony today will "fall on deaf ears".

Due to this large number of bills, I feel to discuss many of them is not possible in my allotted time.

I would like to mention the bill that is looking to tax ammunition at a 50% rate.

Ammunition is already taxed TWICE. We pay the state sales tax, as well as a federally mandated 11% tax due to the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937.

I am a state champion Trap shooter. My wife is a champion Trap shooter as well. We shoot Thousands of shells a week to maintain our proficiency and compete at this sport.

In Connecticut the season runs from April till October but we practice all year long.

At a cost of \$6 to \$9 a box of ammunition now. A 50% increase in cost would make the sport, that we love and practice, as much as possible, a thing of the past for us. Financially we could not afford the cost. Considering that we are champions and winners in this sport, we would also be losing prize money by not competing.

I would also like to mention briefly, any bill or bills that limits the capacity of a magazine to 10 rounds or less.

Many of my handguns were manufactured with a standard capacity magazine that hold MORE THAN 10 rounds. These are NOT high capacity, they are STANDARD CAPACITY and what the gun was designed to hold.

In conclusion:

I have been actively involved in the legislative process for only four years now.

Though I have testified enough to know that normally we get to testify on exact bills. I certainly hope that when this "NEW TO ALL OF US" process is completed and the Task Force on Gun Violence has made all its recommendations, that we will have a chance to testify again on the individual bills.

To discuss every bill that has been proposed in this short amount of time is impossible.

If we do not get this chance, then I feel that our rights to be heard will have been infringed.

Thank you,

Leonard Benedetto
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**Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.**