

I am writing in reference to your proposed assault weapon ban and high capacity magazine ban. I am sure you have read plenty of letters about these two issues as of late, but I wanted to share my thoughts with you on these matters.

First off, I am generally against the government legislating based on what they propose citizens “need” for self defense. However, I can understand where you are coming from especially in light of the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I am a first grade teacher in CT and I remember vividly receiving updates on the shooting at Sandy Hook from friends and online through out the day. When I first read of the number of children killed, I was having my lunch and my class of first graders was just returning from recess. It took everything in me that day to keep it together for the remaining school hours.

With that being said, I would like to express my concerns for your proposed bill. As a gun owner, I would have agreed with you on the idea of not needing high capacity magazines. However, I believe this is a choice best left to the law abiding citizen. I have recently come to realize, that with this being said, I now believe that magazines with more than 10 rounds are necessity. I had the pleasure of training recently in Southington, CT at the King 33 facility. They are a company that trains civilians in self defense with guns. I am not affiliated with them in anyway other than having gone there this past weekend to try it out. We ran through scenarios involving shooting and decision making. I was surprised to see that even with just two assailants, how fast I went through my ammunition. It is after this experience that I learned just how much ammunition one may need in a life or death situation. I have shot competitively for the past year, and nothing in my shooting experience has ever given me such pause as training at King 33. I used to keep a handgun with 10 rounds upstairs for protection, in a safe, under my bed, now I keep it loaded in the safe, with 15 rounds and two more 15 round magazines. God forbid anyone ever broke into my house with the intent to do me or my wife harm, I now know how that I would much rather have those 45 rounds at the very least and not have to use them, than not have them at all. On a related note, although this may seem like too much ammunition to you, you also have to realize that handguns do occasionally jam. I have had a magazine crack during competition and become completely useless. In a case like this, when my or my family’s life is on the line, suddenly, having two spare magazines does not seem like too much.

Lastly, to speak briefly to the “assault weapon” ban, I would like to say that I own an AR-15 that would be banned under the proposed legislation. As far as it being a high-powered rifle, it fires one of the lowest power cartridges available (223 Remington) Going down in caliber, there are very few cartridges less powerful. The fact that it is not used in hunting big game has more to do with it not being powerful **enough** to take down animals like deer, etc. It is primarily used to shoot small varmints like squirrels, possums, raccoons etc. It is popular among women and sport shooters alike, because it is so easy to fire and among one of the cheaper cartridges to buy. I urge you to take all this into consideration when passing a law that would make a criminal out of my wife and I, and do very little to stop tragedies like Sandy Hook from happening.

In conclusion, I appreciate your time and consideration and I urge you to speak to people like those at King 33 in Southington, CT and gun owners like myself before passing laws that criminalize and hurt law abiding citizens who just want to right to protect their own families. Thanks again.

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