

I want to first thank all of you being a part of this committee. Next, I strongly urge to reject any anti-civil rights legislation and want you to think about the following questions.

- California has had registration/magazine and weapon's bans for years similar to the ones proposed here and is one of the most violent states in the country. Why would we not look to Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire for answers, seeing as they have the lowest per capita violent crime in the nation?

In U.S. v. Haynes the US Supreme Court ruled that criminals don't need to register weapons because it would violate their constitutional right against self-incrimination. Being that, what would be the point to spending tens of millions of dollars on a registry if the only people who could possibly be punished for this are law abiding citizens? We are already required to report lost/stolen weapons.

The U.S. Supreme Court has also declared that the Constitution does not impose a duty on the state and local governments to protect the citizens from criminal harm. That responsibility is ours. As we have all seen in recent home invasions in Connecticut with 2, 3, or 4 invaders, having a standard capacity magazine of 12, 15, 17 or even 30 rounds is very relevant to self-defense. In terms of expanding the ban on certain semi auto firearms, are telling me if I take the pistol grip off a currently legal AR-15 that all of sudden it's not an "assault weapon"? That shows a complete ignorance of firearms and is just silly.

H How, with billions in budget deficits coming, does Connecticut plan to reimburse gun owners for the millions of magazines we own you want to make illegal and for firearms that they do not make magazines with 10 rounds or less for? What will you say when residents flock out of state to buy firearms/magazines/ammo and millions is lost in state revenue, not to mention job losses and firearms manufacturers leave?

The very notion that because somebody broke so many laws that we need to pass more laws they will just break defies common sense. Ban this weapon or that magazine and we will be having this same discussion next year because we have failed to address the root causes of crime like poverty and access to quality mental health care and education. Also helping people identify and come to terms with the reality of a loved one needing help. Many of the real solutions, like better parenting, cannot come from legislation. You cannot legislate respect for human life and love for each other. Please do not insult victims of violent crime or use children as pawns with the false hope that any more laws would make us safer.

I want to lastly thank all of you for your time and service to the people of Connecticut and again urge to reject these despicable attacks on our human right to self-defense.

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