

# DEFENSE ASSOCIATES

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To: Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

From: Frank Cornwall

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I would like to add my voice to those who advocate that additional restrictions on law-abiding gun owners is not a proper response to the events that occurred in Newtown or elsewhere in the country. Having read all the posted proposed legislative changes it is clear that none would have prevented Sandy Hook, they would only affect law-abiding citizens and would put more people in danger by limiting their options for self-defense.

While the murders at Sandy Hook were a great tragedy, experts on violence and firearms such as Lt. Col. Dave Grossman and John Lott have consistently stated that access to 50 year old technology is not responsible for school violence or mass murder. The items used to commit the three largest instances of mass murder in the US were fertilizer, gasoline and dynamite in that order.

Considering it is the most popular sporting rifle sold in the US, the fact that an AR-15 was used in two recent high profile shootings is not surprising. Before jumping on the band wagon to ban them you should consider:

1. The AR-15 is not an "assault" rifle nor a machine gun and no more deadly than any other self loading rifle. To legally own a real assault rifle takes a lot of paperwork, time and money.
2. The AR-15 is mandated for use at the Camp Perry Nation Matches and other target shooting matches nation wide, it's the first choice of those competing in 3 Gun matches; it is a very popular rifle for hunting small game, coyotes and feral hogs.
3. It is the most common patrol rifle issued to police officers along with 30 round magazines (so they can kill more people quickly? I don't think so!), a very popular rifle for self-defense (based on police preference) and very popular with female shooters because of its light weight and low recoil. Even Home Land Security has declared it a fine personal defense weapon.

Also consider that if the AR was not present at the above shootings the outcome would not have changed. Most of the wounds in CO were caused by a shotgun and the pistols present in Sandy Hook would have caused the same results as the rifle.

Restrict magazine size for the general public only? Are we second class citizens compared to the police? Most officers go on patrol carrying 40 to 50+ rounds in "high" capacity magazines. Please remember that when the shooting starts, or is about to start, the only difference between an individual police officer and an armed civilian is, if possible, we can run away they can't.

As to magazine capacity limits (rifle, pistol or both) just what is the magic “good” number – 5, 7, 10 and why? How did NY come up with 7? Just pull the number out of the air? Well yes! The decision was all about political posturing not safety or tactics. To look tough on guns they had to reduce their senseless 10 round limit even more so someone picked one round more than carried by a traditional revolver. After 20+ years of working with some of the best instructors in the county and training people (including those from the military, local and Federal law enforcement) to use firearms for self-defense I cannot tell my students how many rounds are needed in a self-defense situation and neither can anyone else.

One last consideration should be that passing laws that are both non-productive and overly restrictive will simply drive many residents out of the state along with small (and possibly large) business like mine. Many of the proposed changes will make it unfeasible to continue running the training classes we offer making my only option relocation. The simplest way to continue on Connecticut’s path to collapse is to keep using California (and in this case NY) as a role model. Whether on gun control, taxes, environmental issues, etc. keep following their lead and watch the state destroy itself. Someone has already decided to selectively enforce the law as it has been decided pot is good, sanctuary cities are fine and probably driver’s licenses for illegals are also, and in addition no crime is so heinous as to deserve the death penalty. Continue this course and be not surprised when, just like as is happening in CA, many productive individuals and small businesses exit the State.