

Dear committee members,

The attempt to ban semiautomatic firearms and high capacity magazines is fraught with problems. The horse is already out of the barn on this issue. There are thousands of these in circulation and many in the hands of people who will not abide by any laws you pass. Confiscation of these would equally be ineffective since the criminals would not abide by the law. The only people affected are the honest citizens who don't commit the crimes. Please deal with the people and not the instrument and stop avoiding the real problem. It isn't even feasible to define an assault weapon in legitimate terms that make any sense without just referring to cosmetic inclusions. Just today I read in our local newspaper that several boys who stabbed 4 alpacas in Westbrook are being considered for AR (accelerated rehabilitation). This type individual is the origin of people who go on to commit these atrocities. The legal system is not dealing with them appropriately. These kids need help and will probably not get it. There should be no possibility of AR in a ruthless case like this. It is easy to regulate things, but people are the problem and society will continue to **create** these individuals by taking the quick and easy way out rather than taking the harder approach of helping those with severe psychiatric problems.

Respectfully,

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