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I oppose any bill that would restrict the rights of gun owners or potential gun owners by banning types of firearms, types of magazines, or introducing a tax on ammunition.

Please do whatever you can to protect the rights of honest law abiding citizens. There have been many proposed actions and bills that are aimed at limiting our ability to purchase and keep firearms, magazines, and ammunition. I fear that these laws will not stop the criminals and the madmen whose goal it is to kill as many people as they can. Guns are merely a tool, and if these madmen did not have a gun, I'm confident that they would have found another, potentially more destructive tool or method to achieve their goal. Maybe next time they'll be a suicide bomber, maybe they'll create a fire, maybe they'll use a car. If someone's goal is to hurt as many people as possible, they are going to find a way to hurt as many people as possible. No amount of banning will stop them.

To be clear, I support keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. I support background checks on all firearm transactions. I support laws that would require people to lock up their guns when they are not in use, especially if they live with people who should not have them (convicts, mentally ill, etc). If it can be done in a way that protects people's privacy, I also support linking mental illness information to firearm purchase background checks.

However I do not support laws that would ban certain types of firearms, magazines, or put additional taxes on ammunition. We as a country and a state have found these types of actions to be ineffective in deterring crime and mass murderers. The federal "assault weapons" ban was between 1994 and 2004. Studies have shown that "we cannot clearly credit the ban with any of the nation's recent drop in gun violence. And, indeed, there has been no discernible reduction in the lethality and injuriousness of gun violence (1)." After the assault weapons ban was lifted in 2004 "murder and overall violent-crime rates have fallen. In 2003, the last full year before the law expired, the U.S. murder rate was 5.7 per 100,000 people, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report. By 2011, the murder rate fell to 4.7 per 100,000 people (1)." This ban also included a 10 round magazine capacity limitation.

The Columbine shooting happened during the last assault weapons ban, it did not deter them. The Virginia Tech shooting happened after the ban was lifted, but the killer chose to use pistols, one with a 10 round magazine, one with a 15 round magazine ("no assault weapons" used, and only one "high capacity" magazine). The killer did not care that he didn't have 30 round magazines. 32 people were killed that day, the fact that the shooter had smaller magazines did not save them.

If you have an understanding of firearms, you can see that guns that are classified as "assault weapons" are no more or less dangerous than any other firearm that was designed in the last 100 years. A firearm becomes an "assault weapon" because of its cosmetic differences. For example, a semi-automatic (one shot per trigger pull) rifle becomes an "assault weapon" when you add a pistol grip to it. A pistol grip does not change the way the rifle functions in any way, it is just adding a different handle to it (2). It's like saying you're making your Prius into a sports car by adding a steering wheel cover. It's an illogical way to determine that one weapon is bad, while the other isn't. Please do not buy into any of this "assault weapon" nonsense, people who are informed on the subject can see how irrational it sounds (I'd rather that you look informed

and logical).

With all these proposed measures, I think you'll find that the majority of people who comply with them are going to be the people who are already responsible gun owners. The criminals and madmen aren't going to care about any new laws, they're not going to care if they illegally obtain or keep a firearm or a magazine, they won't care if they have to pay an extra \$20 in taxes to get their ammunition for their killing sprees, and they aren't going to pay for insurance on their weapons. But one thing is guaranteed, you're going to make it harder for honest law abiding citizens to be able to defend themselves and their families, and they aren't going to be happy.

Thank you for your time,  
Jacquie Corey

References:

1. The facts about Assault Weapons and Crime:  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323468604578245803845796068.html>
2. The truth about assault weapons: <http://www.assaultweapon.info/>