

## Legislative Testimony – 28 Jan 2013

My name is Jeff Schwartz. I am a PhD Statistician working in the pharmaceutical industry for the last 33 years. I have been blessed with three wonderful children. I am also a certified firearms instructor.

My deepest sympathy and prayers for the families who have lost loved ones.

This is a time for thoughtful analysis and intelligent action. This is a time for real conversation and sincere collaboration. This is not a time for rushed reaction and enactment of measures that do not have data to support their effectiveness and could have lasting and unintended consequences.

We all want to protect that which is most important – our children. We may have different theories and opinions as to how to go about doing that.

Firearms are used by good people for good purposes. That includes law-abiding citizens using firearms to protect themselves and their families. A middle-ground estimate of Defensive Gun Use ranges between 250,000 and 370,000 times per year. The fact that firearms are used for good is indisputable.

Firearms are also used by bad people for bad purposes. That includes criminals and the mentally deranged. The fact that firearms are used for bad is also indisputable.

Enacting restrictions limiting access to firearm type or magazine capacity will certainly affect those who obey the law. How it will affect those who do not obey the law is subject to debate.

Measures which appear to restrict availability of military weapons are misguided. Assault weapons capable of full automatic fire are already heavily restricted and are not the topic under discussion. It is the style of firearm that is being debated. A pistol grip and adjustable stock helps a marksman control the firearm and improves accuracy.

Magazine capacity is another issue under discussion. The thinking is that if only less than normal capacity magazines are legally available, then fewer shots can be fired for illegal purposes. This will not affect the criminal who by definition does not operate within the boundary of law. It will certainly affect the law-abiding citizen and their ability to defend themselves and their families.

How many rounds are enough? That is a difficult question to answer. A review of police statistics show that a 30 – 40% hit rate may be a reasonable estimate for trained police officers. Consider the woman in Loganville Georgia who recently shot an intruder pursuing her into her attic hitting him 5 times firing 6 shots to protect herself and her two 9-year old children. He was still mobile after that but chose to flee. What if she had been less accurate? What if it had been two or more attackers? What if it had been more like Cheshire, CT?