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Jesse Yeager
Canterbury, Connecticut
Public testimony for Proposed Bill 161 of 2013

The purpose of the following passages is to establish how destructive any more legislation on firearm ownership will be in the State of Connecticut. Since the 1994 Assault Weapon ban expired on the federal level, there was little to no statistical proof that it was effective in deterring crimes. Connecticut continued to uphold the ban and as the horrific tragedy in Newtown showed, it did not work. The proposal of restricting ownership of magazines that can hold over 10 rounds is also severely unsound. They're going to have to be "turned in" because they will be illegal to possess, as stated in the bill. An important question, when these magazines are forfeited, is the State of Connecticut going to reimburse us with the MSRP price for relinquishing these magazines? I can tell you the answer. The answer is no, the State of Connecticut will not. I can guarantee with a high degree of certainty that all owners of magazines are asking the same question.

Any law abiding gun owner understands that by enacting a new law to prohibit the manufacture or sale of "assault weapons" realizes that the weapons which are currently in the hands of criminals or the hundreds of thousands of magazines that are currently in criminal possession are still "out there." This does not mean that this ban will deter criminals from using their weapons they already illegally possess. Criminals have no regard for the law already, which is why they are called "criminals." What makes the politicians in Connecticut think that this law will deter these criminals any further?

Assault is a behavior, an act of violence - not a device. Inappropriately naming semi-automatic rifles "assault weapons" based off of their cosmetic appearance is a ploy that the anti-gun advocates have propagated since the early 1990's. These weapons function no differently than any other semi-automatic rifle. "Assault weapons" are NOT machine guns nor do they possess any other similarity, except in appearance. Machine guns have been heavily regulated since the National Firearms Act of 1934. Since then, they have been heavily restricted and it is incredibly difficult to obtain one. Justifying that it should be equally difficult to obtain a semi-automatic weapon that resembles an appearance to a machine gun is not only frivolous but a show of cowardice by politicians seeking to ban these weapons in a knee jerk reaction to the Newton tragedy.

Section 8 of proposed bill 161 states, "*require individuals to register all firearms with state law enforcement officials, and require biennial renewal of such registration.*" Unbeknownst to some, all handgun purchases and long gun purchases conducted through FFL's in the State of Connecticut are already in fact "registered" with the Connecticut State Police. The DPS-3C form that is filled out during every transfer is permanently recorded and retained by the Connecticut State Police. One can obtain a list of firearms listed to their name by contacting the Special Licensing and Firearms

Unit within the Connecticut State Police. Registration of firearms has always led to confiscation. That is a proven fact throughout world history.

Unjustly infringing on law abiding citizens and treating us like criminals is demoralizing to the fabric of the United States Constitution. It is not acceptable to punish law abiding gun owners with legislation that will prevent us from defending ourselves and turning us into criminals if this legislation is passed. Financially, there is no way that the State will be able to afford to compensate owners of said prohibited items if this legislation is passed and items are required to be turned in. Make a common sense decision and strike down this draconian bill.