

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Lt Col John T. Coffindaffer, USAF (ret). I was a Combat Air Rescue Helicopter Pilot where I led both in and out of combat. 21 years of active duty, 13 countries, 3 wars, and 2 major offensives later, I now reside with my family in Oxford, Connecticut, the CONSTITUTION state. I am a Certified NRA shotgun, rifle, and pistol instructor. I oppose all of the proposed bills.

1. **Regarding House Bill 5268 and Senate Bill 140:** If anyone is to pay liability insurance, it NEEDS TO BE those with mental disorders, NOT firearms owners. Firearms owners should NOT pay for safety risks presented by the mentally ill. Secondly, why should firearms owners pay an ADDITIONAL ammunition tax as a penalty on an inalienable right to defend themselves? Are you going to legislate a voter tax to vote, a speech tax to publically speak, or a religious tax to exercise our specific religion? By the way, a range facility will have to pass their ammunition purchase tax burden onto their attending range patrons.
2. **Regarding Senate Bill 122 and 124:** From the York Daily Record, 10/24/12, York, PA: "Douglas Downs, 48, was at home with a friend, 36-year-old Andrew Boyd, shortly after midnight when SEVERAL armed men broke into his home and tried to rob him. Boyd was forced into the basement before Downs managed to retrieve a handgun... Downs fired NUMEROUS rounds until the first man dropped his weapon. He then exchanged gun fire with a second intruder. A third intruder appeared and helped his accomplices out of the home to a vehicle where a fourth man waited." How am I to protect MY FAMILY and myself against multiple criminal assailants, who will NOT abide by these magazine limiting proposals, and by the way do NOT abide by our current laws? How can you exempt law enforcement, secret service, and the military from this restriction...are LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN's LIVES of any less value? ENFORCE the CURRENT firearms laws and PUNISH criminal violators to the MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE!

Gun control legislation is NOT about decreasing crime, saving "at least one life", or about safety of our children. It is about CONTROL! Why would you seek to rock the very foundation of our REPUBLIC and state? If a citizen chooses to not own a firearm, then that is their right. That being said, do NOT restrict my God-given right, as a FREE MAN, to protect MY FAMILY and MYSELF against criminals who do not abide by laws. Gun-free zones, magazine capacity, chamber limitations, semi-automatic bans, liability insurance schemes, increased sales taxes, etc. do nothing more than empower the criminals and tie the hands of, and economically punish, the law-abiding citizen.

HONOR and DISHONOR have an eternal legacy. As our elected representatives, do NOT be coerced into violating the LIBERTY won through countless years of personal sacrifice! The choice is clear...Defend The Republic and our Constitutions by NOT restricting any portion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment! What is your choice, honor or dishonor...how will you be remembered?

Thank you.

John T. Coffindaffer, Lt Col, USAF (ret)  
Oxford, CT