

I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation to ban so-called "assault weapons" and "large" ammunition magazines.

A previous ban on these inanimate objects was in effect from 1994-2004 and had no discernible effect on violent crime. In fact, a study of the ban mandated by Congress found: "At best, the assault weapons ban can have only a limited effect on total gun murders, because the banned weapons and magazines were never involved in more than a modest fraction of all gun murders."

Tens of millions of Americans choose to own semi-automatic firearms with ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds for the same reason as law enforcement officers: they are effective for self-defense. One never knows how many rounds he or she will need for self-defense or defense of others, or how many criminals may attack. Thus having a firearm that allows its lawful user to discharge multiple shots can often be the difference between life and death. In fact, a number of studies have shown that firearms are used for self-defense hundreds of thousands of times to 2.5 million times annually. This amounts to guns being used 3-5 times more often for self-defense than to commit a crime.

Rather than expanding previously failed legislation that won't curb violence, but will affect law-abiding gun owners, I urge you to support legislation to enhance school security and improve our nation's ailing mental health system.

Please reply to me indicating your position on Sen. Feinstein's most recent proposal.

Sincerely,

JOHN KOZAK
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