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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

Co-chairs and Members of the Gun Violence Task Force:

My name is Kevin Holian-Borgnis. I'm a resident of Ellington, father of two small children, a gun owner, and founding member and Secretary of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, the largest grassroots pro-second amendment organization in the State of Connecticut with over 3,500 members statewide.

So far this session, we've seen almost 100 proposals submitted that affect our right to keep and bear arms. These proposals cover everything from bans on standard capacity magazines, hefty sales taxes on ammunition, expansion of the misnamed 'assault weapons ban', and requiring permit renewals every two years. Virtually none of these proposals, and certainly none of those I listed, would do anything to increase public safety.

Firearms labeled as 'assault weapons' and banned under Section 53-202a subsection (3) of the Connecticut General Statutes are prohibited simply because they look scary. These semiautomatic firearms possess two or more cosmetic 'features' that in no way affect the functioning of the firearm. Like any modern hunting rifle, they require one pull of the trigger for each bullet fired. The only 'feature' that affects the number of rounds it is capable of firing is the shooter's trigger finger. Whether one's wrist is bent slightly one way or another makes no difference. Any expansion of this definition to limit semi-automatic firearms to one cosmetic feature would not serve any public safety purpose.

Many handguns come from the factory with magazines having a capacity greater than 10 rounds: Sig Sauer P226 (15 rounds), Sig Sauer P229 (13 rounds), Smith and Wesson M&P (17 rounds), Glock 17 (17 rounds), Beretta 92FS (15 rounds), Beretta PX4 (17 rounds), Glock 19 (15 rounds). These guns are used by military and police personnel around the world and many private citizens have chosen these firearms due to their reliability. By banning these standard capacity magazines, you're forcing law abiding citizens to use inferior low-capacity magazines. Firearms should be used with the magazines they were designed to accept, not hampered by arbitrary limits chosen on a whim.

There is no public safety benefit in expanding restrictions on lawful gun owners. Instead we need to empower people, individually and at the local level, to take their own safety seriously. As such I urge you to support the following bills and oppose further restrictions on law abiding citizens.

- HB-5660, An act concerning immunity from liability for harm caused to an individual who is committing violent acts against others while on school property
- HB-5165, An act concerning the defense of a person's home, motor vehicle or business
- HB-5176, An act concerning the application requirements for a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver
- SB-277, An act concerning school district policies regarding the carrying of firearms in public schools

Thank you for your time,
Kevin Holian-Borgnis - Ellington, CT
Secretary, Connecticut Citizens Defense League (secretary@ccd1.us)

Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15