

Bipartisan Task Force On Gun Violence Prevention  
Gun Violence Prevention Working Group  
January 28, 2013

Linda Winarski  
Meriden, CT  
Member of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League

This is my written testimony in regards to the bills being discussed on January 28, 2013.

I have read through the bills and find A LOT of disturbing trends, but will discuss only a few of the issues that affect me the most.

#### Bills regarding raising taxes for firearms, ammunition or accessories

I am a 59 year old woman who is also disabled and lives on a fixed income.

Any bill that would force me to pay higher taxes on firearms, accessories or ammunition would force me to sacrifice valuable training time throughout the year. Training, I feel as a responsible gun owning citizen, I should perform as much as possible. I don't take owning a firearm lightly and try to keep my skills proficient. I have to practice more diligently since I am disabled. I have taken training and continue to train several times a year (training, is not target practice). If I pay higher taxes on my firearms accessories and ammunition, it will force me to cut back on valuable training. Being disabled, it is important for me to keep my skills sharp and train more often than others.

#### Bills regarding magazine limits

As a disabled woman, statistically, I make a much better target for crime. With training, I have learned how to make myself a less attractive target to a criminal. My disability doesn't allow me to do rapid magazine changes if I'm limited to ten rounds or less. That being said, if there are multiple attackers (like in a home invasion) I may not be able to adequately defend myself should there be any misses on target. In almost every defensive shooting (including law enforcement)

there are misses on target. With a ten round magazine, I just won't be able to properly defend myself and load a fresh magazine if needed. Criminals, will not have that problem.

Why should a criminal have the upper hand on a disabled, nearly senior citizen?

### "Assault Weapons" terminology and limits

I've recently started target shooting with an AR-15. It offers GREAT rehabilitative benefits. Low recoil, mid-priced ammunition and it gets me out more often practicing firearms skills development. We do not need to make more features banned under new legislation. We really need to remove features from the current ban. Being disabled, an adjustable stock, would really help make shooting more comfortable and safer. When was there a gang "drive by" shooting with a rifle that has an adjustable stock, drive by "bayoneting" or rifle with pistol grips used in these crimes?

30 round magazines in these rifles (or pistols that have more than 10) are not "high capacity", they are standard capacity. These are the magazines the firearms were designed for in the first place. More magazines does NOT equate to more death. In fact, the more ammo readily available, the less accurate these so called "active shooters" are. Any such bans just plain silly and do NOT do anything to reduce crime - period.

### Insurance for gun owners

This idea may have sounded good on its basis, but is really not possible. There are VERY few companies that would sell this type of insurance and it wouldn't cover a criminal act anyway.

### On the loss of the Newtown victims and families

My heart aches and I have cried often when I think of those innocent little victims and the heroes that died trying to protect them. I am a mother of two and a grandparent of 13 (including step grandchildren). Two of my grandchildren (by my daughter) are twins and are the same age as the children that were

murdered at Sandy Hook. It's hard to look at my grown "kids" and their babies and not feel for the victims and their families. As a person who shoots, I also realize that **NONE** of these laws that are geared towards law abiding citizens will accomplish **ANYTHING**.

Adam Lanza broke over 100 laws that day. What new law would have prevented this? Made the parents suffer any less?

It is time we started to not only punish criminals, but stop letting violent offenders out of prison on various early release programs.

Let's start punishing criminals and not law abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time,

Linda J. Winarski  
Meriden, CT