

Gun Task Force Members:

As a life long Connecticut resident, longtime firearm owner, father, and NRA instructor I support efforts to safeguard students by altering the currently defenseless state of our public schools. I cannot, however, support efforts that threaten the activities, possessions, finances and well-being of the hundreds of thousands of law-abiding gun owners of the state of Connecticut. Some of these proposals include:

HB 5112, which would make pistol permit licensee information available to the public. This proposal, if enacted, would inform those with criminal intent which houses have handguns in them, inviting burglary, and which houses have no handguns, inviting home invasions. Vote NO on HB 5112.

HB 5268, which would mandate liability insurance for gun owners and establish a 50% tax on ammunition sales. This effort would only affect people who obey the law, who in turn are the safest of gun owners. Ammunition taxes would disproportionately affect sport shooters, who may use thousands of rounds per year in their legal activities, as opposed to criminals, who need only a single round of ammunition to commit a crime. The insurance mandate and ammunition tax would also place an undue financial burden on legitimate gun owners with lower incomes. Vote NO on HB 5268.

SB 122, which would prohibit all firearms capable of firing more than a single round, would grossly violate the rights of law-abiding gun owners and does not merit serious consideration. Vote NO on SB 122.

SB 124, which is a ban on sale or possession of firearm magazines over ten rounds, would render some legally-owned firearms useless, as ten round magazines do not exist for them. In addition, there are conservatively estimated to be a least 500,000 magazines of greater than ten round capacity in CT. These magazines, depending on manufacturer or model, cost anywhere from \$12 to upwards of \$50 each. Lawsuits by gun owners for the value of their banned property would cost the state tens of millions of dollars. Vote NO on SB 124.

SB 161, which bans weapons based on certain features, eliminates Internet ammunition sales, and requires registration of firearms every two years, would ban many sporting and target firearms used for legal purposes statewide. Internet ammunition sales would affect target shooters more than anyone else, as they both use and purchase ammunition in bulk quantities. The registration requirement is puzzling, as guns are registered upon purchase- why would someone need to re-register a firearm that is already registered? This would create further record-keeping burdens and expenses for the state police. Vote NO on SB 161.

These proposals, and others like them, unfairly restrict the activities of law-abiding gun owners while doing nothing to affect gun crime in Connecticut. Several hundred thousand gun owners and their families are closely following the issues in this debate, and we urge you to carefully consider the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Sincerely,

Michael Diakostavrianos
Glastonbury, CT