

1/28/13

Senator Looney and Representative Miner and
Honorable members of the Judiciary committee:

I have been a competitive bullseye pistol shooter for most of my adult life. It is a sport of concentration and precision. I shoot two or three pistol matches every week. These matches are organized and supervised. They are attended by thousands of shooters in our state. The scores from these matches are sent to a national register where permanent records of competitors' scores are kept, and shooters are given a nationally recognized rank.

The guns I use to shoot these matches are all semi-automatic pistols. Some shooters can use revolvers. I can't because arthritis in my thumbs prevents me from recocking a revolver after each shot. One of the standard courses of fire requires five shots in ten seconds. I can't do that with a revolver, but I can with a semi-automatic.

The pistol matches I shoot can require as little as 30 rounds of ammunition, something I shoot every Wednesday night, or as much as 300 rounds for the all-day matches. In a standard course of fire I shoot a total of 90 rounds on nine separate targets. For the all-day matches I do this same course of 90 rounds with each of three different guns for a total of 270 rounds plus a team match of 30 or more additional rounds.

Plus I practice a lot.

I shoot a total of 20,000 rounds of ammunition each year. All of these rounds are fired at standardized heavy paper targets. Like any other sportsman, I buy my ammunition in bulk, or case lots. I buy it over the internet because gun stores do not generally sell case lots, and those who do charge a premium price. At any given time I have on hand between ten and thirty thousand rounds of ammunition in various calibers.

When you consider any legislation concerning limitations on guns and on ammunition, please keep in mind that my situation is like thousands of other shooters and do not penalize us for engaging in our sport.

Please put our money into mental health issues, not into restrictions on ordinary sportsmen like me. I hope this information is helpful to you in your deliberations. Thank you for your attention.

Paul Harold
Orange, Conn.