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Distinguished Committee members, guests and legislators, I'm humbled and honored to be here, thank you for allowing me to speak to you, on behalf of the citizens of this great state and on this very important topic. I come here today in strong opposition to proposed legislation, including, but not limited to HB 5268, SB No. 140, SB No. 122, SB No. 124:

If you really think passing a ban on rifles, semi automatic pistols or limiting the capacity of magazines will save lives or prevent tragedies like the one in Newtown, Connecticut you're naïve, actually fooling yourself and misinforming the public you are sworn to represent. Not only will laws like this make honest hard working, tax paying citizens felons, you'll actually help criminals in the commission of a crime and make it easier for anyone who has contempt for the law by giving them an unfair advantage over law abiding citizens.

I can see it now, the law you pass that's supposed to be saving lives is actually taking the lives of honest men, women and children who have the utmost respect for law, because they will not be able to defend themselves. You have your classic criminal who has access to black market weapons or so called Saturday night specials that could care less about the law, but is intent on hurting someone, getting even or picking up that extra cash from some mom and pop store or a Dunkin Donuts. Please remember, passing legislation regulating law abiding citizens is not stopping crime, it's limiting the liberties the constitution guarantees it's citizens.

Criminals don't care about the capacity of their magazine or what type of weapon they're carrying. All they care about is their objective, getting even or finding their next easy target for some quick cash. Criminals will use a law like this to out gun honest citizens, and thanks to these types of laws you really are giving criminals the upper hand, an unfair advantage and tying the hands of law abiding citizens. In fact, where do you think these fanatics or criminals want to go? To gun free zones, where they know they can't be challenged, so they can fulfill their sick fantasies without resistance. And yes, I don't believe arming a school employee is a solution to school safety.

We know your intent is good, but stop and think about what you are really doing. Limiting the ability for the honest citizen to defend themselves or making honest tax paying citizens unintended felons because when it really gets down to the facts, criminals will take advantage of anything or anyone to get what they want, when they want it and when the opportunity presents itself. Now the criminal has his twelve, fifteen, twenty or thirty round magazines and the law abiding citizen has his ten round magazine. Has the legislator who really intended to help stop crime with a law banning certain guns and magazines really helped society or have they really given the criminal an unfair advantage over the law abiding citizen? Not only will you turn law abiding citizens into victims, these laws will turn their firearms useless.

The media has hyped up the term "Assault Weapon" when only fully automatic (military) guns are defined as assault weapons, rifles are not assault weapons. It's absolutely ridiculous to think a law banning gun magazines, banning guns because they "look" like a military weapon or impose ridiculous taxes and on the purchase of ammo and gun accessories is going to stop these tragedies by criminals and the mentally deranged. New legislation banning these things will only impact people who follow the law and will do nothing to change the disregard that criminals have for the law or toward life. Increasing the fee for a gun permit is also totally irresponsible. Why make the fee so ridiculous that the average citizen can't afford one, so why not just make a gun owner a felon, because that's what all your proposed legislation is doing.

Please don't impose gun control under the guise of making children or us safer, because it really won't.

We should be strictly against publishing the names of permit holders, as many police officers, prison guards and parole officers are law abiding citizens that maintain permits. Do we treat these men and women like sex offenders and let criminals know where they live so they can be robbed or harassed?

Again, criminals are not going to comply with these laws, because if someone is intent on harming another person, nothing like the proposed laws will prevent it. It is irresponsible to pass legislation that does not impact mental health and school safety directly, since this is what we're reacting to. Remember, this shouldn't be about disarming law abiding citizens, this should be about passing laws that impact criminals directly and prevent firearms from getting into the hands of criminals. Please sit down and be responsible in passing meaningful legislation like I've suggested above and not propose irrational laws that infringe on our U.S. Constitution and our second amendment rights.