

Ladies and Gentlemen

Please accept the following as my statement to your group as I cannot make the hearing on Monday.

I am a retired attorney who, like thousands of other citizens across the State, enjoys taking part in various sports involving firearms, such as target and trap shooting. I am not violent and have never and would never use a firearm against another except in self defense. The same is true of my fellow sportsmen. Legislation or regulation which infringes on our Constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms as we choose, will accomplish nothing toward the goal of reducing injuries or death by violent means. As far as I know, there is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

There's been a lot of discussion about banning or limiting certain arms, ammunition or "feeding devices", presumably in the belief that to do so would somehow minimize or even prevent harm. Again I say that these efforts will likewise prove totally ineffective. The harm results from human action; whether the instrument of harm is a firearm, a baseball bat or a knife is irrelevant. Remember that the Federal ban on "assault weapons" and high capacity magazines in effect from 1994 to 2004 resulted in no significant reduction in injuries or death from the use of firearms.

I also remind you that laws and regulations are meaningless to the people among us who are the real dangers; criminals and the mentally unbalanced. They will not be deterred no matter what laws we pass.

In sum, I respectfully urge your group to take a balanced approach to the issue- one that recognizes that taking away my rights in an attempt to prevent the unpreventable is fundamentally unfair. I thank you for your time and attention.

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