

My name is Scott Wilcox and I am here to voice my opposition to a host of new gun control laws being proposed by legislators.

First off, the requirement for firearm owners to carry liability insurance, and a tax on ammunition sales of 50% of the price, plus re-registering every 2 years with ever increasing fees really does not address decreasing gun violence but on the surface seems more punitive to law abiding gun owners and making gun ownership more and more cost prohibitive, which, if I am not mistaken, infringes on my second amendment rights to keep and bear arms. Gun ownership is pretty expensive to begin with, and these new laws would make it even more so.

Laws banning high capacity magazines or Senator Meyers bill limiting us to just one bullet. Logistically these laws do nothing since there are already hundreds of millions of these in circulation, and in reality by now making a magazine that hold over 10 rounds illegal, you just made 10's of thousands of gun owners into criminals. When it comes to self defense, we want magazines that hold more rounds. Unlike in Hollywood, in real life when you shoot someone, they don't just stop, often times you have to hit them repeatedly, sometimes you miss, sometimes there are multiple assailants. Now when it comes to the bad guys, the mass shooters, the thinking is, well, if he doesn't have as many bullets in his gun he won't shoot as many people. Umm, no, because what has been prevalent in mass shootings is, they just carry more guns and more magazines, and someone who is bent on killing a lot of people I am pretty sure is not going to obey any laws regarding magazine size. That's the thing, the only people these laws affect are law abiding citizens. Some who is bound and determined to commit mass murder is going to find a way.

Laws banning "Assault rifles". First off, there has been assault weapons ban in this country since 1934 and an assault rifle is defined by the option of selective fire. From fully auto to semi-auto. What is being called an assault rifle these days is not, they are just semi-automatic magazine fed rifles with cosmetic features that have no bearing on the function of the weapon. According to the FBI, in 2011, 323 people were killed with a rifle of ANY kind. 728 people were killed with hands and feet. 1,694 were killed with knives.* (expanded homicide table number 8 FBI.gov Murder victims)

Yet the big push is to ban these "assault rifles". Even Vice President Joe Biden last week, admitted during the Google Hangout that "assault weapons" account for very little violent crime in this country and that "more people are shot with a Glock". I can quote statistics all day, but the only argument we get in return is "no one needs an assault rifle or no one needs a 30 round magazine" Last time I checked it was a Bill of Rights not a Bill of needs. Using the no one needs argument and the reduced magazine solution, over 17,000 people a day die due to tobacco related products, so, no one needs a pack of cigarettes that holds 20 cigarettes, we will just limit them to 7 and that should fix the problem. Sounds pretty silly doesn't it.

I just want to finish this by quoting Thomas Jefferson and what he said about gun control laws-

Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes...

Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.

Thank you for your time.

* <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-8>