

HAVE POLITICAL COURAGE – FIRST DO NO HARM

My name is Tom Kazazes. I have lived in Greenwich for nearly 20 years and I am a father of four school-aged children. Thus, I have a heightened degree of interest in our doing all we can to protect our children.

I am also a long-time, law-abiding gun owner with a Connecticut Pistol Permit.

These two perspectives have me here today to ask you to avoid passing ineffectual laws such as magazine capacity limits given there is no evidence that they can protect our children in any way and stop the next rampage killer. (1)

So I ask that you **HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO** look past one-upping New York State's recent law and instead demand that "Because Newtown was here, Connecticut must be the thought-leader in dealing with our 21st century rampage shooting problem in a 21st century way."

Acknowledge that AW bans and mag limits are 25-year-old ideas that have not proven effective and we need something better and more effective. (2)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO challenge CAGV and press them on how AW bans and magazine limits are going to reduce the numbers of suicides, accidents, domestic shootings & criminal activity, the largest "gun violence" issues. (3)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO admit that magazine capacity limits will have no impact on street crime and illegal gun usage while significantly impacting law-abiding citizens' abilities to adequately defend themselves & family (4)

(1) Studies showing weapon bans and/or magazine limits have not proven to significantly lessen crime and/or gun violence (see notes on Page 4): CDC, Committee on Law & Justice, Justice Department funded review, Bill Bratton (exNYPD) & Jeffrey Scott Shapiro (former DC prosecutor)

(2) "Assault weapon" & "10-round" pre-date California's Roberti-Roos Assault Weapon Control Act of 1989
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberti-Roos_Assault_Weapons_Control_Act_of_1989

(3) Magazine capacity will not impact:
Suicides – single shot
Accidents – single shot
Domestic – single/several shots
Criminal – low count but lawless
Can't prevent rampage shootings

(4) "In a 2004 study for the Department of Justice linked on Mrs. Feinstein's own website, Christopher S. Koper, a professor of criminology, reported that "assailants fire less than four shots on average, a number well within the 10-round magazine limit" of the "assault weapons" ban."
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jan/27/the-high-capacity-magazine-myth/>

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO acknowledge that black rifles were not used in some of the most horrific rampage shootings in history

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO acknowledge that California's laws and 10-round mag limit did not prevent the massacre of eight students at Oikos University using ban-compliant magazines (5)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO acknowledge that this is mostly about rampage shootings in suburbia and will have little impact on our big cities or urban communities

For those of you representing our cities and towns with the worst gun violence, HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO admit to your constituents that we are expending copious political capital and resources on potential changes that will not make THEIR children nor THEIR streets safer

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO acknowledge that there are over 3.5mm 10+ round magazines in Connecticut owned by over 500,000 residents (6)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO acknowledge that the cost of implementing CAGV's ban, surrender and confiscation could cost the State, its cities and towns over \$150MILLION in direct costs and foregone economic activity (6)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO acknowledge that it is impossible to prevent the determined criminal or criminally insane from getting equipment from the black market or out of state or back alleys.

(5) Seven dead, three wounded after "a gunman opened fire with a .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun with four fully loaded 10-round magazines"
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oikos_University_shooting

(6) "Questions on Large Capacity Magazines" - CT Office of Legislative Research report update through Y/E 2012 using NICS and other data
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/rpt/2011-R-0158.htm>

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO admit that magazine bans can be circumvented in any machine shop or even in a basement using 3-D printing technology (7)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO acknowledge that the strictest gun laws do not mean less gun violence (Chicago, Stockton, DC, Baltimore, Mexico, etc)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO tell CAGV that the shooter of Gabby Giffords was subdued not because of a magazine change but when his pistol jammed (8)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO understand that Adam Lanza imposed his own magazine limit on himself by reloading only partially/half emptied magazines and that he was horribly devastating nonetheless (9)

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO admit that changing a magazine takes no more than several seconds and there is no “magical” delay during which people cowering for their lives can attack or escape

HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO admit to yourselves and your colleagues that passing ineffective laws today can cost you your political careers if they fail to prevent the next rampage shooter

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask that you HAVE THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO AVOID ineffective restrictions and bans that have not been proven effective elsewhere and that will not protect my and all of Connecticut’s children.

Thank you.

If you would ask, I can share an idea on a more palatable magazine limit scheme.

(7) “Gunsmiths 3D-Print High Capacity Ammo Clips To Thwart Proposed Gun Laws”

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2013/01/14/gunsmiths-3d-print-high-capacity-ammo-clips-to-thwart-proposed-gun-laws/>

(8) WSJ: “...before his gun jammed and he was wrestled to the ground.”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703667904576071191163461466.html#printMode>

(9) “Lanza changed magazines frequently sometimes shooting as few as 15 shots from a 30-round magazine, sources said.”

http://articles.courant.com/2013-01-06/news/hc-sandyhook-lanza-earplugs-20130106_1_police-cars-lauren-rousseau-newtown

“Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review”

“A recent evaluation of the short-term effects of the 1994 federal assault weapons ban did not reveal any clear impacts on gun violence outcomes the maximum potential effect of the ban on gun violence outcomes would be very small and, if there were any observable effects, very difficult to disentangle from chance yearly variation and other state and local gun violence initiatives that took place simultaneously.”

Committee on Law and Justice, National Research Council; Authors: Charles F. Wellford, John V. Pepper, and Carol V. Petrie - 2004

CDC: “First Reports Evaluating the Effectiveness of Strategies for Preventing Violence: Firearms Laws”

Summary: *“The Task Force found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws or combinations of laws reviewed on violent outcomes.”*

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5214a2.htm>

Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impact on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003 (US Justice Department funded; July 2004)

“The ban’s success in reducing criminal use of banned guns and magazines has been mixed”

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/204431.pdf>

“William Bratton: The Real Cures for Gun Violence”

Wall Street Journal; January 19, 2013

Former NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton, a proponent of stricter gun control, admits:

“all the studies that were done about assault weapons after the ban ended after 10 years were pretty much inconclusive.”

“the most successful focus is going to be on the licensing and background checks. Because that's the heart of the problem—who gets access to the guns?” he says. “Clearly a large number of people who shouldn't have firearms actually apply through the process and obtain firearms.”

[http://online.wsj.com/article/](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323968304578246721614388346.html)

[SB10001424127887323968304578246721614388346.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323968304578246721614388346.html)

“Jeffrey Scott Shapiro: A Gun Ban That Misfired”

Wall Street Journal opinion page; January 15, 2013

“As a former prosecutor in Washington, D.C., who enforced firearms and ammunition cases while a severe local gun ban was still in effect, I am skeptical of the benefits that many imagine will result from additional gun-control efforts. I dislike guns, but I believe that a nationwide firearms crackdown would place an undue burden on law enforcement and endanger civil liberties while potentially increasing crime..”

[http://online.wsj.com/article/](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324081704578235460300469292.html)

[SB10001424127887324081704578235460300469292.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324081704578235460300469292.html)