

Written Testimony for the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

RE: **OPPOSE New Gun Control Laws**

Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

Since the opening of the current legislative session, there have been dozens of overlapping bills trying to ban or make cost prohibitive firearms, ammunition and firearm magazines. These bills, while well intentioned, are all reactionary in nature and would not further the goal of preventing a mass murder and instead would increase harm to innocent people and the state. The passing of these potential gun control bills would **A) Not prevent the crime from occurring, B) Not affect the operation of a firearm, C) Have widespread negative economic impacts to our state, D) Have significant costs to implement, E) Have low compliance / be difficult to enforce, and F) Cause increased death of innocent citizens.**

#### **A) Gun Laws Do Not Prevent Crime**

The Centers for Disease control released a study about firearms laws and their effect on crime prevention. The finding of the study (Footnote 1) stated **“the Task Force found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws reviewed for preventing violence.”** In similar research economist and former Yale professor John Lott Jr had published a book showing the correlation of a decrease in crime with the increase of civilian gun ownership. (Footnote 2)

#### **B) Bans Are Cosmetic Only With No Functionality Change of The Firearm**

The current bills target items such as Flash Hiders, Bayonet lugs, Barrel Shrouds, Telescoping Stocks, Pistol Grips and Grenade Launchers. Items like Grenade Launchers are simply in the bills to invoke an **emotional response** and are not based in reality. The bill might as well ban attaching a “Jet Turbine Powered Bullet” as it is just as likely to be present. The other items are cosmetic and are mechanically irrelevant to the cycling and operation of a firearm. To prove this point, many rifles can be converted from a wooden stock to a plastic stock with a pistol grip and telescoping stock with fewer than five screws and five minutes time. It is the same exact rifle with the same ammunition, but with different outward appearances.

#### **C) Negative Economic Impacts**

Connecticut is home to many successful firearms businesses, some of which are only 10 years old such as PTR Inc, and Stag Arms. If such restrictive magazine and feature limits were to pass many of these companies have stated that they will close shop and move to a different state taking their tax revenue and jobs with them. Firearms sales have been one of the few industries that have seen continual growth in this recession and forcing them out of our state would further worsen the fiscal crisis Connecticut still faces.

#### **D) Cost to Implement**

The costs of registration of firearms would be roughly **\$112 million** if we use a similar scheme in Canada as a point of comparison. Like the proposed bills, their registration was for some, but not all firearms covering approximately 500,000 firearms. If we base the number of firearms requiring registration based on the FBI gun checks (Footnote 3) then we have at least 854,468 firearms from

1998-2012 alone, not including the multiple purchases done on a single FBI gun check. We can scale up the original Canadian cost of \$66 Million (Footnote 4) to a cost of \$112 Million cited earlier.

Gun Control costs do not end at registration; they also incur additional police training to identify what is and is not an "Assault Weapon". Magazine limits and Assault Weapon bans incur large court costs against the state since many mistakes are made in determining if a firearms is an "assault weapon" or not. (See the case of Richards v. Harris, Footnote 5)

Costs of non-grandfathering are further expenses to the state. Using the 854,468 number of guns calculated earlier, we can safely assume that each of those firearms has 4 magazines. With current market values for magazines at \$60 / magazine that is approximately **\$205 Million**. Furthermore, many gun owners likely have 8-10 magazines per firearm instead of 4 which would again double that cost to **\$400 Million**. Additionally, many firearms, especially older ones, do not have any magazines manufactured with a capacity of 10 rounds, which would require the state to not only compensate for the costs of the magazines, but also the costs of the firearms as well.

#### **E) Non-Compliance / Difficulty in Implementing**

With over 8,000,000 potential magazines in Connecticut it would be impossible to track down every single one and make sure that they were turned in. Also anyone with a pair of pliers and a scrap of aluminum could make a 30+ round magazine in their garage with no record. Banning an object does not make it disappear and historical compliance with gun control has been around 30% of firearms. (Footnote 6)

#### **F) Gun Control Increases Deaths of Innocent People**

Data from compiled crime reports shows that with a 9mm bullet, a common defense round, an average of 2.45 bullet hits are needed to incapacitate an attacker. Obviously one cannot fire 1/2 of a bullet, therefore 3 rounds impacting the attacker are needed to stop an attack per each attacker. (Footnote 7) Police Officers have an accuracy as low as 18% of their shots hitting their intended target (Footnote 8), which means that for each attacker 14 bullets must be fired to hit the attacker at least 2.5 times. Since many modern attacks involve two attackers that means a defensive gun use would require 28 bullets. By artificially limited magazine size to 10 rounds a victim is unlikely to stop the attacker if there is only one person, let alone multiple assailants.

**Gun Control does not work because it cannot prevent bad people from doing bad things.** Gun control is costly to the state and harms those it is designed to protect. **Please OPPOSE any new gun control laws** and examine the footnotes for more detailed information.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony,  
William Chase

#### Footnotes:

1: First Reports Evaluating the Effectiveness of Strategies for Preventing Violence: Firearms Laws , available at:

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

2: More Guns, Less Crime, University of Chicago Press, 2010

3: [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/reports/20130102\\_1998\\_2012\\_state\\_program\\_to\\_date\\_purpose\\_ids.pdf](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/reports/20130102_1998_2012_state_program_to_date_purpose_ids.pdf)

4: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/fire-feu-eval/eval-eng.pdf>

5: <http://ia700608.us.archive.org/23/items/gov.uscourts.cand.240928/gov.uscourts.cand.240928.docket.html>

6: <http://reason.com/blog/2012/12/11/mexico-as-an-example-that-tighter-gun-co>

7: <http://www.buckeyefirearms.org/printable/node/7866>

8: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083\\_162-57502545-504083/empire-state-building-shooting-sparks-questions-about-nypd-shot-accuracy/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-57502545-504083/empire-state-building-shooting-sparks-questions-about-nypd-shot-accuracy/)