

SB 17-007

Mr. Chairman ~~Speaker~~ and members of the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Don Macalady, and I am a member of Hunters Against Gun Violence, a group of hunters and gun owners dedicated to reasonable and responsible regulation of violent weapons. We strongly believe in the Second Amendment as it was intended and as it has been interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court. Citizens interested in the public good, in public safety, and in the curbing of senseless violence against innocent persons, must be encouraged to support common sense regulations. We are dedicated to defending the right to use firearms in the context of hunting and recreation, but equally dedicated to the encouragement of gun safety regulations that protect our communities from the military-style assaults and assassinations that have proven so difficult to prevent when military-style weapons and ammunition are readily available

Proponents of SB17-007 call for the repeal of the magazine size limitation law, passed by this legislature in 2013. They claim that this is not reasonable, is unenforceable, and that it imposes a restriction to gun ownership that is somehow a violation of their Second Amendment rights. This is, in my opinion, preposterous. No use for high-capacity magazines can be justified on this basis. And the courts agree. Even the legal 15 round magazines are illegal for hunting game in Colorado. The only legitimate use that this restriction limits is the ability to have maximum fun with assault-style weapons.

Having fun with assault style weapons with high-capacity magazines may be sport for some, but high-

capacity magazines also facilitate mass shootings and the rapid death of more victims of insane murderers and terrorists. It is true that the Colorado law is not going to prevent persons from traveling to another state to purchase higher capacity magazines. But that is no reason to allow their sale in Colorado. The law prohibits the SALE of high capacity magazines in the state. This alone will help prevent the spread and use of high capacity magazines. This, however, is only true if the prohibition of sale is enforced, something that many of the Sheriffs in the state have refused to do.

Our magazine-size limitation law is entirely reasonable, and, as I have said before, the only persons who think otherwise are those who believe in removal of ALL restrictions to gun ownership and use.

Finally, I must ask, what kind of people have we become, when a significant fraction of Americans believe that the spread of deadly weapons is the only way to prevent violence towards each other? Surely, we are better than this!

Background:

- A study of mass shootings by the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City identified 30 such incidents from 1984-2012 in which semiautomatic firearms (either handguns or long guns) and high-capacity ammunition magazines were used. This includes Virginia Tech (2007), Northern Illinois University (2008), Fort Hood (2009) Tucson (2011), Aurora (2012), Oak Creek (2012), and Sandy Hook (2012).

Talking Points for SB17-007: Repeal the Ban on High Capacity Magazines

Bill Summary:

Would remove the ban on the sale and transfer of ammunition magazines over 15 rounds, which became law in 2013.

Full text of the bill can be found at:

http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017A/bills/2017A_007_01.pdf

This bill will be heard before the Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on Tuesday morning, January 31, in room SCR 357. The timing is a vague as the committee meets after the senate floor session adjourns. Arrive at about 9:45 and be prepared to wait!

Talking Points: Please feel free to add and/or personalize as appropriate.

Capacity limits SAVE LIVES!

- The Tucson shooter was disabled when reloading.
 - A Seattle Pacific University student was sprayed with pepper spray and then tackled when reloading.
 - At Sandy Hook, as many as 11 children escaped when the shooter stopped to reload.
- Magazines with smaller capacity force a shooter to reload more often, enabling victims a chance to escape or subdue the shooter.
 - Consider the family of the person killed with the 16th bullet fired by a mass shooter if it would have been possible to stop the shooter while reloading after emptying a 15 round magazine.
 - Having to reload after 15 rounds is a small inconvenience for a lawful gun user when the limit truly can save lives.
 - A gun with a 15 round magazine is totally adequate for legitimate personal defense needs.
 - Limits on high capacity magazines are fully consistent with the Second Amendment right to bear arms.
 - In the Aurora Theater shooting, use of a high capacity magazine resulted in 12 people killed and over 58 wounded in just 90 seconds.
 - An analysis of mass shootings in the United States reveals one variable that has remained remarkably consistent over time: the use of detachable, high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 cartridges.
 - A study of mass shootings by the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City identified 30 such incidents from 1984-2012 in which semiautomatic firearms (either handguns or long guns) and high-capacity ammunition magazines were used. This includes Virginia Tech (2007), Northern Illinois University (2008), Fort Hood (2009), Tucson (2011), Aurora (2012), Oak Creek (2012), and Sandy Hook (2012).