

Good afternoon Chairwoman Ryden and members of the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee My name is Don Macalady and I am here representing myself and Hunters Against Gun Violence. We are a group of hunters and gun owners who cherish our right to own and use firearms. The opportunity to enjoy wild country and to provide untainted meat for our families is priceless to us. However we do not believe in the extension of this right to those who pose a threat to our society and to those for whom gun ownership adds to the risks of homicide and suicide in our culture. It is clear that those who proposed SB16-144 are intend in removing all restrictions on gun ownership and use and to create a society with the maximum number of weapons and universal gun ownership.

SB16-144 in particular would allow 18-21 year olds who are active in or honorably discharged from the military to carry concealed weapons. It is hard to imaging that this has any other purpose than to extend the number of persons who can carry concealed weapons. This particular effort is unwise for a hosts of reasons. Among them is that fact that this age group is prohibited by law from purchasing handguns. It is also the age group that has the highest probability of firearms suicide. Also, the possession of weapons is prohibited on military bases except for the very few for whom carrying a weapon is essential to their duties. The vast majority of the 18-21 year old persons covered under this proposed legislation have had no experience or training in the use of handguns. Thus the carrying of concealed handguns by these 18-21 year old persons poses a high risk of accidental or intentional use of weapons for purposes other than personal protection or any other purpose that can be considered positive for society, For these reasons, I urge you to defeat this dangerous and unwise legislation.

Magazine Size

Chairwoman Ryden 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.

Proponents of SB16-113 call for the repeal of the magazine size limitation law, passed by this legislature in 2013, 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 fun with assault-style weapons.

Having fun with assault style weapons 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 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. I hope their views are never realized, as this will almost certainly lead to the repeal of the Second Amendment by a public finally totally fed up with gun violence.