

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Maxine Grad
Cc: Martin LaLonde
Subject: S.55: High Capacity Magazines

Dear Representative Grad,

I had the opportunity to review Martin Lalonde's proposed amendment to S.55, including the high capacity magazine ban. There are valid arguments on both sides. Sportsmen will point out that it only takes a second for a skilled shooter to swap out magazines and for this reason a magazine capacity ban is a government intrusion without benefit. Conversely, gun control advocates may credibly argue that the same split second that it takes to swap magazines could be used by innocent victims to escape a mass shooting and also could be used to attempt to disarm the shooter.

Balancing a would-be victim's constitutional right to (continued) life against the constitutional right of another to bear arms is no easy task. It is my professional opinion that a 10 round magazine limit fairly balances these competing rights and, if enforced, would offer victims and first responders a brief window to act during a mass shooting incident.

In order for this ban to be effective, it must clearly prohibit the offering for sale of high capacity magazines, regardless of date of manufacture, into this State from outside the State. I am mindful that the typical mass shooter is socially isolated and therefore quite likely to be reliant upon the internet as a source for parts and accessories, including magazines, to upgrade an existing arsenal. In drafting and debating the proposed statutory language, I hope you will keep in mind that Vermont-based FFL holders are quite likely to comply with Vermont law, whereas out-of-state internet sellers will likely need to face clear and certain criminal penalties in order to achieve their compliance.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Wishes,

David J. Cahill
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