

Erin DaCosta

Testimony in Opposition to bill to Repeal Large Ammo Magazine Ban - SB 16-113

April 25, 2016

Good afternoon Madame Chairwoman and members of the committee. My name is Erin DaCosta and I live in Boulder with my husband and 3-year old son. I am here to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 16-113.

Regardless of where one stands on the political spectrum, we can all agree that we have an obligation to do everything in our power to make our communities safe, especially for our kids. Sadly, children these days are desensitized to news of yet another shooting and are accustomed to lockdown drills simulating the terrifying reality of an active shooter situation.

If we take a step back and ~~logically~~ ask ourselves - how can we change this situation? What common sense steps can we take to reduce the overwhelming number of victims of gun violence? Surely, we can see that this - a ban on large ammunition magazines holding over 15 rounds - as one step that can save lives without jeopardizing 2nd Amendment rights. This is a common sense, logical approach to our gun violence epidemic that does not affect one's ability to protect themselves in situations of self-defense or limit one's capacity to hunt or shoot for other sport.

It is no secret that what these large ammunition magazines do is to make it easy for a shooter to kill the maximum number of people in the minimum amount of time. By allowing such magazines to enter the market we are sending a message that we act on the behalf of the shooter and of gun manufacturers and not on behalf of our citizenry. Time and time again, guns with large capacity magazines have been the weapon of choice for mass shooters. A study conducted by Mother Jones examined 62 mass shootings that took place over a 20 year period - 1982-2012 - and found that in half of them, large capacity ammunition magazines were involved.¹ When these large capacity magazines are involved, more people die. It is as simple as that. Mayors Against Illegal Guns reviewed mass shootings that took place between January 2009 and January 2013 and found that, in the incidents in which the shooter used an assault weapon or a large capacity ammunition magazine, 135% more people were shot and 57% more killed than in the mass shootings not involving weapons of this nature.² Albeit brief, the window of opportunity provided in the seconds that it takes a shooter to reload, can allow people to escape or law enforcement officials ^{or others} to intervene. This is precisely what happened in Tucson, Arizona, where a shooter took the lives of 6 and injured 13, including U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords. The carnage was stopped only when the shooter paused to reload and was tackled by a bystander.³

¹ http://smartgunlaws.org/large-capacity-ammunition-magazines-policy-summary/#footnote_5_5980

² http://smartgunlaws.org/large-capacity-ammunition-magazines-policy-summary/#footnote_5_5980

³ http://smartgunlaws.org/large-capacity-ammunition-magazines-policy-summary/#footnote_5_5980

Madame Chairwomen, members of the committee, I testify before you today as a member of the Colorado community and as a parent determined to support common sense steps to reduce gun violence. I'm proud, as I'm sure some of you are, of Colorado's courage and leadership in enacting common sense laws that make our state safer and respect the 2nd Amendment. I urge you not to reverse the progress that has been made and jeopardize the safety of our state by voting for this bill.

Thank you for your time.