

LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICE ACT

From 1994 to 2004, high capacity ammunition magazines were illegal as part of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban. Democrats and Republicans alike—including former President George W. Bush—called for the reinstatement of this sensible law in 2004, yet it was never renewed. Since that time, high capacity magazines (carrying more than 10 rounds at a time) have been legal to manufacture and sell.

In the Tucson shooting, Jared Loughner used a high-capacity 30-round magazine in his Glock 19 pistol. The high-capacity magazine (along with one bullet in the chamber) allowed Loughner to fire off 31 bullets without having to manually reload. Given that bystanders apprehended him as he attempted to change magazines, if Loughner did not have access to the high-capacity magazine that he used, it may have prevented some of the deaths and injuries that occurred.

Other mass shootings using high-capacity magazines include:

- Manchester, Connecticut, August 3, 2010: Omar Thornton shot and killed 8 people and wounded two others with a semi-automatic pistol with a high-capacity magazine.
- Fort Hood, Texas, November 5, 2009: Major Nidal Hasan killed 13 people and wounded 34 others carrying a semi-automatic pistol with high-capacity magazines.
- Blacksburg, VA, April 16, 2007: Cho Seung-Hui killed 32 people and wounded 17 with a Glock model 19 handgun and a Walther P22 handgun with high-capacity magazines.

Summary of Legislation

Senator Lautenberg will be introducing a bill when the Senate returns to ban ammunition magazines that have a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition. That was the law before 2004.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Ban the possession, import, or sale of any high-capacity magazine that has the capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition;
- Make an exception for the possession of any high-capacity magazine that was lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment;
- Make an exception for the possession of high-capacity magazines by law enforcement officers, both active and retired; and
- Require identification markings on any high-capacity magazines manufactured after the date of enactment.