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To: The House Judiciary Committee

Re: Assault Weapons Ban HB-5436

Dear Chairman Craven and House Judiciary Committee Members:

First of all, I would like to note what is happening in several states is terrible. I cannot begin to understand how painful such losses are to the immediate family of the victims. On the other hand, it was not the gun that killed. In each incident, it was a deranged person. You would not ban cars and trucks even though thousands of people are killed by them every year. You make laws to insure the person driving is capable and safe. We need laws that target criminals. We also need to harden our schools. We do not need laws that only impact law abiding citizens.

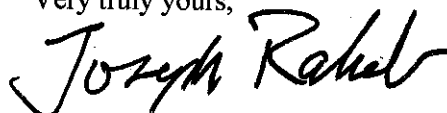
Banning assault weapons does nothing. Furthermore, it is important to note the proposed legislation defines assault weapons so broadly that includes revolvers and most other guns out in public use today. It will make most guns illegal. You should note that it is easier for a criminal to buy a gun illegally than it is for me to buy one legally. Gun laws merely make it more difficult for the law abiding citizen to buy and own a gun.

I personally own guns for protection as well as target practice. I do not hunt. By making any gun illegal, you merely make it more difficult for me to protect myself and deprive me of a hobby. You do not stop the criminal or the mentally impaired. If they are driven to obtain a gun, they will get one no matter what laws are in place. They will also find other ways to commit their crimes. There are many ways that are effective at killing.

Gun registration is also not an answer. How would this information be protected. What happens when criminals get access to this information. Will they break into our homes and steal our guns. Or worse, hold a family member hostage until all guns are produced. Think about it. A criminal will do anything, especially against an easy target.

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU OPPOSE THE GUN LEGISLATION BEING PRESENTED.
It is a bad reaction to a bad problem and it accomplishes nothing other than to hurt law abiding citizens. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Joseph Raheb