

# HB 1009 Magazine Limits

Good afternoon Madam Chair. I'm Jim Engelking, a Navy vet-Vietnam War who's lived in Jefferson County since 1972. My focus is the safety of all of us, given all the guns we have already.

Thanks to all of you who supported limiting ammunition magazines during the last two sessions. Our law helps prevent mass murders, and whatever we can do to accomplish that goal should be applauded by every Coloradan. These limits are legal, and we must keep them.

When I was ordered to mobilize the ship's landing party to help defend the Long Beach Naval Shipyard perimeter during the Watts Riots in the 60's, we did not take our semi-automatic weapons to use against our fellow citizens. We were not at war with them, not assaulting them, just defending our property.

I know the carnage that weapons of war can do. Modern guns with modern ammunition feeding devices can kill and maim scores of our children, our neighbors, our friends in seconds. They're more lethal than what troops carried in Vietnam.

Colorado must do everything possible to prevent another Columbine or Aurora, another Tucson or Sandy Hook, another Virginia Tech or Isla Vista. Not one more mass murder must remain our goal.

The awful slaughter of innocents by mass murderers using larger magazines concerns all of us. The lasting trauma caused to survivors and families of Aurora required us to act in 2013, and we did. Many survivors and family members are now facing more months of trauma as the mass murderer awaits trial, if it finally happens. Even the name or face of the murderer makes it worse for them.

We cannot merely investigate these massacres after the fact. Repealing limits on the capability of modern weapons to deliver modern ammunition more rapidly and reliably without reloading would make prevention of mass murders more difficult. Exactly the wrong policy.

Coloradans must be responsible to each other. That includes being responsible about complying with limitations on the killing power of lawfully owned guns. If the gun industry refuses to give up increased profits to do that, we the people of all political persuasions must be accountable to our communities. At any time, a "law-abiding" citizen can become a mass murderer by using one of these guns to kill lots of us very fast.

I urge you to vote NO. Thank you.