



State Representative Casey Weinstein House Bill 349

Chairman Lang, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 349, which would reinstate a high-capacity magazine ban.

On August 4, 2019, a 24-year old approached the entrance of Ned Peppers Bar in Dayton with a semi-automatic pistol and a 100-round drum magazine. He then fired off 41 rounds in under 30 seconds, fatally shooting nine and injuring 17 others. Thankfully, local law enforcement was already on the scene when the shooting rampage started, and they quickly dispatched the gunman. If officers had not already been in the vicinity, the number of dead and injured would have been much higher. After all, the shooter had another 59 rounds in his drum.

I do not represent Dayton, but as an officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and later a civilian living in the metro area, Ned Peppers was one of my favorite bars. When I woke to the news that 26 Ohioans had been shot there in under a minute, I was horrified. Not just because of my love for Ned Peppers and Dayton, but because a similar shooting could happen anywhere in Ohio. That should not be the case.

For many years, it would not have been. Prior to 2015, Ohio had a ban on high-capacity magazines. It is not a coincidence that the deadliest mass shooting in our state's history occurred after this body rescinded that ban. High-capacity magazines have been a standard feature in many of the United States' deadliest shootings, including the mass shooting in El

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Paso, which happened less than 24-hours before the shooting in Dayton. This legislation would not end mass shootings in Ohio, but it would make them less deadly.

HB 349 would ban any magazine capable of holding more than ten rounds. If this legislation had been in effect in 2019, the Dayton shooter would have been forced to reload at least four times before firing 41 rounds. The time taken to reload would allow more innocents to flee from danger and give law enforcement more time to respond to the scene in any potential future mass shooting.

Our constituents have demanded that we in the legislature do something to prevent gun violence for over a year, and we have failed them. We cannot afford to do so any longer. We cannot afford to forget what happened in Dayton last year. We cannot afford to let another would-be shooter walk into another bar with another high-capacity magazine and shoot dozens of innocent Ohioans.

Chairman Lang, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify on House Bill 349. I would be happy to answer any of your questions. Thank you.