



**For Immediate Release
May 27, 2013**

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CT Against Gun Violence Defends Against Gun Lobby Attacks

Fairfield, CT –The national gun lobby has begun to file lawsuits against Connecticut’s new gun safety laws in an attempt to overturn the intent of the majority of the citizens of Connecticut.

CAGV Executive Director Ron Pinciaro said, "There is nothing new about attempts by the gun industry to use the courts to try to overturn gun safety legislation that had the overwhelming support of the people. There have been more than 300 such attempts, with minimal success, since the Supreme Court decision in the Heller case in 2007."

To date, two suits have been filed: the first, on the grounds that the bans on assault weapons and large capacity magazines discriminate against disabled persons who need these light and powerful weapons to adequately defend themselves; the second, while reiterating the discrimination claim of the first suit, also complains on other grounds, including that the weapons banned are in common use and therefore protected by the Second Amendment, that dealers are made to suffer economic setbacks, that the laws are unconstitutionally vague, and that the law infringes on the right of equal protection because law enforcement is allowed to keep and use these weapons while citizens are not.

Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen will vigorously defend against these claims. The Brady Law Center in DC and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco will also be contributing. Other gun violence prevention groups are expected to join in the defense

Similar suits have been filed against new legislation in Maryland, Colorado, and New York. Colorado has an effort underway to recall the Senate President, targeted because he led the effort to pass their new gun bills.

"We stand by the constitutionality and legitimacy of our bills on all grounds and are confident that they will be upheld by the Courts. We will work to bring all available resources to bear that can help in this defense," stated CAGV President Marty Isaac.

Pinciaro added that, "While CAGV is confident that these challenges and others that may be forthcoming will be defeated, the outcome of court cases is always unpredictable. CAGV and its grassroots base of Connecticut residents will work to pre-empt any further attempts to erode the gun safety reforms enacted in recent months. The gun lobby cannot undermine the desire of the people of Connecticut for common-sense gun laws."

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Connecticut Against Gun Violence is a Connecticut non-profit organization dedicated to making Connecticut communities, families, and children safe from gun violence through a common sense approach to public education and legislative advocacy. For more information please visit our website at www.cagv.org