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**Re: Handgun Ammunition Resolution**

Dear Member,

On Thursday's session of Private Members Business, I will be bringing forward the following resolution for your consideration:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services should request the Chief Firearms Officer to conduct a study to identify ways of better regulating ammunition which includes consideration of additional mechanisms to further restrict and/or ban the sale and possession of ammunition for hand guns and to share relevant findings with Federal and Provincial/Territorial partners."

Attached, please find a media release and backgrounder outlining some of the reasons you may wish to support and/or speak to this resolution.

This resolution asks the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to request the Provincial Chief Firearms Officer to study and consider potential alternatives to restrict the sale and/or possession of handgun ammunition. It simply opens the door to begin an informed dialogue on potential alternatives.

If we can find a way, here in Ontario, to further restrict or even prohibit the unauthorized possession of handgun ammunition, firearm related fatalities and injuries could be reduced and our communities made safer as a result.

This is not just my view. It's a view shared by Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair who has indicated he strongly supports this resolution.

At the present time any adult with a Firearms Acquisition Certificate and proper ID can walk into a Gun Shop or sporting goods outlet and purchase as much handgun ammunition as they wish. Record keeping of such purchases is sporadic at best. This is something the Chief Firearms Officer could consider in his report.

Let's be clear:

- 1) This is not a firearms registry or a handgun or firearms ban.

- 2) It only asks the Minister to request the Chief Firearms Officer to report on potential alternatives to make it more difficult for criminals or unauthorized people to get their hands on handgun ammunition. It does not propose a specific measure.
- 3) It is not meant to impact target shooters in authorized firing ranges.

Right now, if a Police Officer confronts a street gang and one gang member is carrying an illegal gun, they can charge him. If they find another gang member in possession of handgun ammunition (perhaps he ditched his weapon or was simply carrying the ammunition) unless he's committed another crime, not only does he get to go home, he gets to take his ammunition with him to use another day.

That's just not right.

I considered bringing this proposal forward in a more specific form as a Private Members' Bill; however, I quickly discovered a number of complications that convinced me to instead request the Chief Firearms Officer of the Province to use his expertise and experience, which is much greater than ours, to consider alternatives to accomplish our goal.

Some questions I would like the Chief Firearms Officer to consider are:

- 1) Who should be exempt from the restrictions – police officers, security guards, etc?
- 2) How do you get around the fact that many bullets can be used in both long guns and hand guns?
- 3) Are there any further considerations that could benefit our police that should be studied such as the ability to maintain a data bank of shell ballistics information for handguns?
- 4) Are there ways to improve the current regime of record keeping of ammunition purchases and how valuable could this information be to the police?

I ask for your support for this resolution. It's time to have some dialogue about the options available to restrict or limit access to ammunition for handguns. Through this resolution, we would be beginning a process that could contribute to addressing the problem of guns and gangs. The result could be safer community; a goal shared by all parties and all Members of our Legislature.

Sincerely,



Brad Duguid, MPP  
Scarborough Centre