

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

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HEIDI BERGMANN-SCHOCH, COALITION OF NEW
JERSEY FIREARM OWNERS, GUN OWNERS OF
AMERICA, INC., and GUN OWNERS FOUNDATION,

Civil Action No. _____

Plaintiffs,

-against-

MATTHEW PLATKIN, in his official capacity as
the Attorney General of New Jersey,
COLONEL PATRICK J. CALLAHAN, in his official
capacity as the Superintendent of the New Jersey
State Police, and SCOTT A. COFFINA, in his official
capacity as the Burlington County Prosecutor,

Defendants.

DECLARATION OF JOHN C. PYLE

1. My name is John C. Pyle. I am a U.S. citizen and resident of New Jersey. I make this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief. Unless otherwise stated, I make this declaration based on personal knowledge. If called as a witness, I can testify to the truth of the statements contained herein.

2. I am the Vice President & Treasurer of the Coalition of New Jersey Firearm Owners ("CNJFO").

3. In that capacity, I am in daily contact with members and supporters regarding their concerns, questions, requests, and suggestions on how CNJFO can best represent their interests.

4. CNJFO is a nonprofit organization incorporated in New Jersey with an address at P.O. Box 768, Sewell, NJ 08080. As a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2015, CNJFO's mission is to

support and defend the Second Amendment through education and awareness. CNJFO advocates for lawful, safe, and responsible firearms ownership in New Jersey, including regular reporting on the State's firearms laws. CNJFO has many members who reside across New Jersey.

5. Many of CNJFO's members maintain Permits to Carry and routinely carry their handguns in public. However, New Jersey law bans popular "hollow point" ammunition and instead requires that these individuals carry less effective ammunition in their handguns while carrying them in public for self-defense and all other lawful purposes.

6. CNJFO's members desire to carry their handguns with hollow point ammunition, rather than the ammunition that is allowed. There are a number of reasons why individuals prefer hollow point ammunition.

7. First, hollow point ammunition has better stopping power than non-hollow point ammunition. This is because a hollow point will expand when it hits a target, rather than penetrating completely through the target. Ammunition such as "full metal jacket," "FMJ," or "ball" lacks the ability to expand when it hits a living target, and thus, stopping power is reduced.

8. Second, non-hollow point ammunition is likely to over-penetrate a target versus a hollow point, increasing risks to innocent bystanders.

9. Across the country, law-abiding citizens are able to purchase and carry hollow point ammunition. Limiting the ammunition type that our members can carry violates their Second Amendment rights.

10. Our members desire and overwhelmingly support CNJFO's involvement in litigation to protect their right to carry the ammunition of their choosing, unimpeded by government, a right that is being unconstitutionally infringed by the New Jersey law challenged in this lawsuit.

11. Individuals can visit <https://www.cnjfo.com/> to read about our organization and be kept

informed on a vast number of topics. We also maintain a calendar to allow our members to keep up to date on various happenings throughout New Jersey, including training classes and meetings. See <https://www.cnjfo.com/page-18149>. Interested individuals can join CNJFO by visiting <https://www.cnjfo.com/join-us>.

12. Further, we routinely hear from our members on various topics, including such topics as New Jersey's laws, which allows us to direct our resources (including litigation) where it is needed most. By way of example only, CNJFO has taken part in court cases in New Jersey, including cases such as *Kendrick v. Bruck*, 586 F. Supp. 3d 300 (D.N.J. 2022), *Mazarheh v. Platkin*, Civil Action No. 1:20-cv-17598, is currently a plaintiff in *Koons v. Platkin*, Civil Action No. 1:22-cv-07464, and is also currently a plaintiff in *Benton, et al., v. Platkin, et al*, Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-07098.

13. CNJFO has more than 3,000 members and associates in New Jersey.

14. Many of CNJFO's members and supporters have been, and are currently being subjected to and harmed by the laws challenged herein.

15. CNJFO has heard from members and supporters in New Jersey whose right to keep and bear arms is infringed by New Jersey's ban on possession, transporting, and carrying hollow point ammunition in public.

16. For example, we have recently spoken to a number of CNJFO members throughout the state of New Jersey who desire to possess, transport, and carry hollow point ammunition, including in the firearm they publicly carry, but cannot.

17. Specifically, we spoke with one CNJFO member who told us that they carry a revolver loaded with "full metal jacket" ammunition and would possess, transport, and carry hollow point ammunition in their handgun if it were not illegal to do so. This member states that they prefer

hollow point ammunition for its increased stopping power versus ammunition that is currently allowed for carrying in a firearm outside the home.

18. Another member states that they do not carry hollow point ammunition in their handgun and would carry hollow point ammunition if it were legal. This member states that they own hollow point ammunition at home, but because of New Jersey's ban on carrying them, refrains from doing so.

19. CNJFO heard from another member who reloads their own ammunition and fears prosecution if they were to stop at a "non-exempt location," such as the grocery store, after buying a box of hollow point projectiles (not even loaded ammunition) at the local sporting goods store to lawfully reload ammunition in their home. In other words, New Jersey law is written so as to make transportation and possession of even bullet projectiles (not live ammunition) themselves illegal, and this member fears prosecution and arrest merely for transporting and possessing ammunition components.

20. And in my case, I desire to carry hollow point ammunition in my firearm that I carry in public because hollow point ammunition has better stopping power. Since I am responsible for my own safety, I want to be able to carry the best possible ammunition to increase my chances of effectively stopping any threat to my life. However, New Jersey makes it illegal for me to carry hollow point ammunition in public, and thus, I am relegated to carrying ammunition that is less effective.

21. CNJFO also has members who travel around and through New Jersey in recreational vehicles or other mobile living quarters, which they use to sleep in while traveling, and who desire to carry hollow point ammunition while residing away from a fixed place of residence. For example, CNJFO heard from one member who utilizes a horse trailer that contains separate

living accommodations to attend various events. However, due to New Jersey's limited exception for possessing hollow point ammunition only in a "dwelling" or similar "premises" or "land" this member "owns" or "possesses," this member is not able to possess adequate self-defense tools even within their own mobile residence, where they lay their head at night. Thus, CNJFO members who travel in mobile residences around and through New Jersey, but away from their permanent "dwelling," desire to carry hollow point ammunition to protect themselves within what is essentially their own homes.

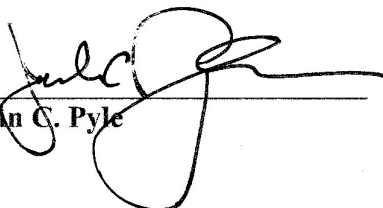
22. The above members, including myself, are a tiny sample of our members who overwhelmingly desire to carry the most effective ammunition they can carry.

23. It should be noted that there are no federal laws that restrict the carrying of hollow point ammunition in a firearm. Likewise, I am unaware of any other state that bans the carry of hollow point ammunition, except the State of New Jersey.

24. Protection of these rights and interests advanced in this litigation is germane to CNJFO's mission, which includes efforts to preserve and protect the Second Amendment and the rights of New Jerseyans to keep and bear arms, including against overreach by unelected and unaccountable anti-gun bureaucrats. CNJFO routinely litigates cases in New Jersey on behalf of its members and supporters, and CNJFO is capable of fully and faithfully representing the interests of its members and supporters without participation by each of the individuals and entities.

I, John C. Pyle, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

2/3/2025
DATE


John C. Pyle