

March 14, 2013

SB 1076 Strongly Oppose

I would like to thank the Chair, committee and my fellow citizens for allowing me to testify today. I would also like to offer my deepest condolences for all who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

I speak today in stern opposition to SB 1076. Unfortunately we live in a world where evil exists and that human trait will never be successfully legislated out of existence. The world is a dangerous place and I am unwilling to give up any of my rights for a false sense of security. While I could certainly agree to some commonality between the Republican and Democratic task force proposals such as background checks for long guns and stricter enforcement of current law this bill seems to disregard the bipartisan effort and proposes many unacceptable provisions which if enacted would infringe on my right as a human being to defend my family and myself. Most of these proposals would do little if anything to stop future acts of a madman and it is my belief, sadly, that some are using the tragedy to further an agenda. I question the apparent rush to do something regarding gun laws prior to the police report from Newtown being available. How can you form a solution prior to completely understanding the cause of an incident? It seems clear to me that this was more a mental health than a gun issue. However, I have heard little to date in the form of media coverage or proposed bills in this critical area. While the human loss should not be diminished we also need to be practical. The state of our economy is dire. If any of the proposed ban provisions are enacted I suspect this State will lose some if not most of the 7,340 firearm industry related jobs. Texas and other states are wooing these companies and if I were in their position, if these provisions are enacted, I would be gone.

I am opposed to most of the provisions of this bill especially the following:

The Assault Weapon Ban. This term is a creation of the media. Assault weapons have been almost impossible to own in the US since 1934. The current weapons are modern sporting rifles and given their features are safe, accurate and can be used to hunt, shoot competitively and defend oneself against multiple attackers. Many of the banned features both current and proposed do nothing to change their lethality as semi-automatic weapons. 1 trigger pull, one bullet.

Standard Capacity Magazines. Yes standard not high capacity. There is no way of knowing how many attackers may decide to confront you either in your home or public. Police carry magazines with well in excess of 10 rounds for this reason. We as citizens should be allowed the same level of protection. It should be noted that trained law enforcement personnel often require multiple rounds to stop a single attacker.

Ammunition Restrictions. While I don't take issue with the idea that an individual who cannot legally obtain a firearm should be barred from the purchase of ammunition I do with any attempt to inhibit the law-abiding from exercising free commerce with anyone. Sellers of ammunition online do require proof of age prior to any sales.

Gun Registration. This is far and away the most unacceptable and Un-American concept I have ever seen. It is an embarrassment to include such a provision. This says to me the government thinks I am a criminal and must prove, for an annual fee that I am not or face fine and incarceration. I contend anyone who votes for this provision is in violation of their oath of office and should be removed from that office.

Expansion of Gun Free Zones. These zones do not work. They only provide a place where people are in essence sitting ducks. Allow people who have gone through the lengthy permitting process to carry their firearms anywhere. If a teacher or staff member had a weapon in Newtown lives may well have been saved.

In closing Gun laws do not work. Consider Chicago, New York, and the District of Columbia, they have some of the strictest laws and highest crime rates. According to FBI statistics the federal assault weapons ban did not lower crime at all. Criminals will not care if this law passes they will not register or turn in their guns and magazines.

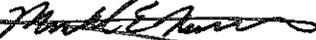
Please preserve our rights.

Enforce current law.

Treat mental illness.

Thank you

Michael E. Nintean



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