

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Greg Baker <darkerjet@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 6:46 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Concerning Senate Bill 650, House Bill 6848, and House Bill 6962

Upon learning about the upcoming bills of Senate bill 650, House bill 6848, and House bill 6962, it has come to bear that i speak in protest of such action based on logic and pragmatism.

1st is a general statement that the underlying cause of these bills is reactionary in interest to reduce threats to the public but in reality these bills only cause more fear. Fear is the motivating factor in preventative behaviors. In truth these bills will only cause wariness and a sense of fear surrounding a firearm owner in the way that a man dressed in black is evil. For instance, the Senate bill 650 states that anyone who is on the wrong side of a restraining order also will be stripped away temporarily of any firearm without due process of law. This is a statement of fear and presumption implying that anyone who gets the wrong side of a restraining order is going to retaliate. The real issue here is fear is louder than freedom and that rules the day in the bills that are being presented. The logical part of this is that under current law we already have 'imminent risk warrants' so why make another law.

Similarly House bill 6848 would allow someone served with a restraining or protective order a mere 24 hours to transfer all firearms and ammunition to a FFL dealer or the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Protection. The interesting part here is that there is no way for these to be returned so are you going to vote yes to a bill that plainly states once they are given up the state is under no obligation to return them? How does freedom ring in this part of the song i wonder? We cant let preventative measures turn to fear. I am not blind that these bills are trying to make people safer. I am also aware that these bills are also punishing the innocent in the name of security. These laws will affect everyone in the state and as always there are people who are unjustly affected by them. This is a fine line that must be traveled and the honest truth is i make no excuses for those under restraining or protective orders, but i will not be silent about the punishment of freedom.

This last bill is the most astonishing to me, House bill 6962. this bill would allow penalties and liability to unloaded firearms not locked up. Yes that is right, now we have even the mere sight of a firearm a punishable fine. Can you not see how thick with fear this bill is? How purely illogical an unloaded firearm is deemed a threat when it is inside your home. Its a paperweight without ammunition. This doesn't make sense to those who live alone and now needs to lock up their firearm so when the burglar does come in the firearm owner can say please wait while i unlock my safe. The truth is that every household is different with different needs. Yet here is a once size fits all bill and once again there are already laws in place that state that loaded firearms within close proximity to minors must be secured. This is a law that is righteous and true. House bill 6962 on the other hand is a severe attack on freedom as it only yet again, provides the correlation of firearms and fear, that even the sight of one is somehow wrong and like a skeleton in the closet must be hidden.

I need to make my voice heard. Its the beauty of being in America, but without people like me speaking, how could you know what is on the minds of the people? At the end of the day i want to convey that safety and security is not greater than freedom. Our national anthem says the land of the free. Do you really think that the spirit of these bills is about freedom? Honestly ask yourselves that as you decide on this. I ask that you oppose these bills and show that freedom and not fear is truly in the heart of our laws.