Juduser

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2022 8:35 AM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Rep. Blumenthal, Matt
Subject: Juvenile Justice and Guns

Dear Judiciary Committee:

Words matter and ideas matter. I **OPPOSE Senate Bill 16** for these reasons.
For evidence of that, I offer the following quotes from the testimony of Ashley Hlebinsky, Curator of the Cody Firearms Museum, at the **United States Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Committee on the Judiciary** regarding "ghost guns" on May 11, 2021. This same testimony was heard by our very own Senator Richard Blumenthal.
Your constant use of the term "ghost gun" is misleading and politically charged:

Certain terms like, "Ghost Guns" evoke strong emotions, however, they also create a false sense of authority on the subject matter that can make discussions unproductive. It creates a perception about certain firearms that may not align with reality. For example, with the term, "Ghost Gun," it is possible that someone could ***conflate*** *that classification to mean* ***undetectable rather*** *than* ***untraceable****, meaning that people could assume the gun is able to bypass security scanners, which is understandably concerning to the general public, rather than be considered untraceable as a means of identification* ***after a crime*** *rather than* ***prevent*** *one.*
On serial numbers:

It is certainly ***easier*** *to purchase an* ***already made firearm*** *that will definitely function, and* ***file*** *the* ***serial number off*** *to use*
in ***criminal*** *activity* ***rather*** *than* ***assembling*** *a* ***purchased parts kit*** *onto a drilled and machined 80% receiver, which is* ***not guaranteed*** *to function correctly depending on skill and ability. Therefore, the idea that a serial number and markings are the be all to end all in tracing crime is simply not accurate and many other factors are utilized when trying to track down a criminal.*
The BATFE recognizes the legitimate process of privately-made firearms. As well, a ***prohibited person buying a kit to make a firearm is unlawful****. Further, it was stated multiple times in the BATFE document that the markings are really a* ***post-crime resource*** *(****so not necessarily reducing crime*** *in this instance, rather making it easier to track the firearm used in a crime to the last known possessor)*

On 80% versus 100% receivers:

In today's law, certain receivers that would be considered ***100%*** *can be purchased and assembled with parts kits, however, those are already* ***subject to serial number identification and background checks****. It is the colloquially used* ***80% designation*** *which is the topic of conversation as this is a* ***more involved and time-consuming process****, which does not fall under the same regulation of the aforementioned 100% receiver. While the term "Ghost Gun" is related to the latter, the two are often conflated and used interchangeably when discussing this with each other and the public*

And on enforcement:

As members of the Committee of the Judiciary, you recognize there are currently laws addressing these issues. ***Straw Purchases*** *are referenced in the BATFE Proposal as a great means of enforcement. However, in 2017,* ***112,000 straw purchases were attempted****. Federal investigators had names and addresses of all these people, but they* ***only prosecuted 12 of them***

Thank you for your time

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Ralph Russo

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