

3915 Bridgewood Circle
Murrysville, PA 15668
April 14, 2019

To the members of the PA Senate Judiciary Committee:

Let me introduce myself. I am Lawrence Borland, MD. I am a 38 yr SW PA resident. I am a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and received virtually all my post graduate medical training at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). I am a life long PA resident.

I worked at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for 35 yrs as a pediatric anesthesiologist / intensive care physician & over the years have cared for > 40,000 children in the operating room.

I am also in my 8th year as President of Franklin Regional School District in SW PA. I am fully aware of the impact of violence as my school (in my term of office) was the site of the worst mass stabbing attack in USA history.

I am writing this letter as a committed supporter of the US (and PA) Constitution's Right to Keep & Bear Arms.

I am not writing this letter as a hunter (although it would be a valid position).

I am writing this letter as a citizen who believes that it is both my Right and responsibility to protect myself & loved ones from harm.

Personal harm is the most obvious. As a pediatric anesthesiologist I routinely arrived and was at work at CHPgh before 6am and often (usually) left late in the evening. I witnessed several of my colleagues and co-workers in the operating room at CHPgh who were attacked and injured coming into work in the dark. In all instances the attackers were hard drug users stealing to support a narcotic habit.

But as important, I believe that we have both a Right & obligation to protect ourselves from the immoral and illegal actions of a central government. The last and current century is replete with instances of genocide. Recall that genocide is actions (including murder) of one's own citizens. The United States has committed numerous atrocities on it's own citizens (just not to the degree as Hitler and Nazi Germany).

My family's history contains numerous instances of a government's atrocities. I note several of these to make my point.

First – My Mother's grandfather was a chief of police in a small town in northern Italy. During the period as Benito Mussolini was rising to power, he (like most despots) eliminated local authority figures that opposed him. My mother's grandfather & his wife were executed in front of their children. One of the children as a teenager fled on foot across the Alps in mid-winter to Belgium and boarded a boat to America. The teenager was **my** grandfather.

Second – A generation later, the daughter of this teenager (my Mother) moved in and was raised by a German Jewish couple in Philadelphia who had fled Germany in the late 1920's. During the mid 30-40's my mother's memory is of fewer and fewer family (and friends) remaining in Germany who answered mail. Of course as German Jews, Hitler and his SS troops had murdered them.

I am opposed to Red Flag Laws – laws that allow firearm confiscation without due process.

I am opposed to blanket legislation and executive orders (such as Mayor Peduto of Pittsburgh) that in effect makes law-biding citizens criminals.

The recent decision by Pittsburgh's mayor & Council has created a situation.

By this illegal & unconstitutional decision on firearms, Mayor Peduto has labeled us as "criminals".

Why? Because we own firearms that Mayor Peduto has declared illegal to own.

In theory, we could no longer care for children at CHPgh as we may not pass the criminal clearance required.

From personal knowledge, this situation is shared by a very, very large % of physicians, RN's, & others in the OR at CHPgh and I suspect a substantial % throughout the UPMC & AGH health systems.

We are the law-bidding citizens that make SW PA a safe place to live. We are the hard working, caring citizens who are the backbone of this community.

I hope that you and other members of the PA Senate Judiciary Committee act wisely and continue to uphold the PA (and US) Constitution's Right to Own & Bear Arms.

Yours,

Larry Borland, M.D.