



Pennsylvania Firearms Association

Pennsylvania's Grassroots-Mobilization
Gun Rights Organization

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 25, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chris Dorr
Director, Pennsylvania Firearms Association

RE: The Splendor of the Second Amendment

Chairwoman Baker, Vice Chairman Langerholc and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, it's my pleasure to submit testimony to this committee on behalf of our members and supporters across the state of Pennsylvania in support of the pro-gun position and against current efforts to destroy the human right to self-defense and bear arms.

I'm Chris Dorr, the Director for Pennsylvania Firearms Association.

The pro-gun position is based on the fundamental truth that self-defense is a human right.

Every Pennsylvanian by birth has the right to defend themselves and the innocent against anyone who does not regard the natural prohibition of taking innocent life.

The act of self-defense is an act of justice and mercy on the account of the innocent, not an act of aggression towards the aggressor.

Another fundamental truth of the American position is that our right to bear, possess, acquire and transport firearms as free individuals is not bestowed on us by government, and certainly not by the Pennsylvania Senate.

Government is not an originator of human rights: as free and lawful Americans, our rights are endowed on us by our Creator.

As a Constitutional Republic (not a Democracy), our rights are enshrined - not created - in the Second Amendment and Article 1, section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution as a limitation on government and final check and balance on tyrannical government, not to ensure the public ability to duck hunt or shoot deer.

These ideas are the foundation of the pro-gun side of this debate, but they are not new in America.

In the 1770's and 1780's, King George thought he could trample out the freedoms being threatened in similar fashion today, but our forebearers disagreed so thoroughly with him that they organized, took up guns and killed British soldiers by the thousands because they were completely intolerant of England's definition of liberty.

Because of their intolerance, the very discussion itself that we're having here today in this beautiful building is happening thanks to a brilliant system of checks and balances purchased by them with blood, lead and gun powder.

Anti-Gun Agenda

Paul Harvey once said "the basic American's Creed, perhaps it never passed the pioneer's lips in this form, but if it

had, I think he would have said something like this: 'I believe in my God, in my country, and in myself.'"

That Pioneer's Creed is the very essence of gun owners in Pennsylvania today.

Gun owners are the absolute best citizens in any state, second to none.

We believe in God, we believe in this country, we believe in this state and we believe in ourselves.

And because we believe in ourselves, we don't look to others to provide security for us.

We don't look to government or police to provide for us or make us safe.

We believe it is our responsibility to protect ourselves and to look out for each other.

We believe it is our responsibility as parents and grandparents, as fathers and mothers and uncles and aunts and family and friends and neighbors to protect our kids, our grandkids, our siblings, our nieces, our nephews and helpless people around us.

We reject the idea that government can provide security in exchange for giving up our God-given liberty.

And because we believe these things, the argument for gun-control becomes antithetical, and we decline them.

Quite frankly, gun-control is built on a foundation of sand.

Universal Background Checks

One of the hallmarks of the howl for gun-control is so-called "Universal Background Checks," which is better termed "Universal Gun Registration."

Universal Gun Registration hasn't ever stopped a killer.

Dayton, Parkland, Vegas, Sutherland Springs, Newtown, Aurora, Charleston, Chattanooga, San Bernardino, a couple of Fort Hoods, the Navy Shipyard killer... all these murder sprees show the world how ineffective the background check system is.

Under the Obama administration, over 800,000 NICS denials were issued, yet less than 45 per year were ever even recommended for prosecution, let alone convicted.

Criminals know the background check system is a joke. If prosecutions ever start happening, criminals will go back to stealing guns or borrowing guns from their thug friends.

What the background check system REALLY is is a database of gun owners that any anti-gun governmental administration down the road can and will use against gun owners.

We oppose Universal Gun Registration because gun owners know criminals won't ever follow the law, and hundreds of dead bodies have already proven their ineffectiveness.

Firearm Bans

Gun bans used to center around "assault weapons," a term invented by the Clinton machine back in the 1990's to demonize non-military-grade AR15's and similar sporting rifles when they passed the Clinton Gun Ban.

By the way, for the record, AR doesn't mean assault rifle. It means Armalite Rifle.

But a 2004 study (conducted when the original gun-ban sunsetted) by the Justice Department proved that the gun

ban didn't lead to any decrease in crime or deaths where a gun was the tool used by the thug.

Of course, you'll never hear a gun-control zealot talk about that.

Today, however, gun-confiscation zealots like Beto O'Rourke and his counterparts here in Pennsylvania have become so bold in their attacks that they're introducing gun bans that would outlaw even Ruger 10/22's, which our members use to teach our kids how to shoot.

It's unbelievable, and a slap on the face of Pennsylvania's best citizens.

One thing you'll never hear from the gun-confiscation militants is how they expect to get CRIMINALS to obey the laws they're all trying to pass.

Remember that.

We oppose gun bans of any type because we prefer that the law favor the law-abiding citizen rather than the criminal, and firearm bans only make it easier for criminals and tyrants to carry out their schemes.

Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders

This is the dominant issue in gun politics today.

Gun owners are opposed to the idea in its entirety.

Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders destroy the American cornerstone of jurisprudence that is due process.

ANY type of gun-confiscation order that does not include adjudication - where someone has been arrested, charged and convicted - is opposed by the gun owner community because it is the destruction of due process.

The fact is, if a criminal is willing to kill someone, a Red Flag Gun Confiscation order won't prevent them from doing it.

In fact, Connecticut passed the first "Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders" law in America in 1999, yet Adam Lanza was easily able to carry out his murderous spree thirteen years later.

Killers can hide a gun before they get confiscated. They can use a knife. They could use a car. They could steal a gun.

On the flip side, Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders can and will be used against gun owners in family court, in divorce court, and in particular will be used to target veterans to strip them of their gun rights.

Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders are framework bills by nature, and once let in the door will lead to further and further erosion of our rights with each mass shooting.

The gun rights community stands resolved in their opposition to these ideas.

Summary

Gun owners are great people. The best people. We believe in God, we believe in our country and we believe in ourselves.

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms that we love so deeply is the cornerstone to the continuance of our country. Take it away and America will rapidly fall by the wayside.

The argument for gun-control, on the other hand, is built on a foundation of sand. It crumbles.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves," said Abraham Lincoln.

That's what gun-control is. It's an attempt to destroy America from the inside.

This idea we can give up enough freedom to obtain safety and security is disgraceful. Alexander Hamilton once said, "The nation which can prefer disgrace to danger is prepared for a master and deserves one."

The moral decay of gun-control is a sign that our schools aren't teaching about freedom, about American History, about the very dear price our nation paid to obtain those freedoms. They should be.

In fact, some might even say that the reason why we're seeing kids and madmen commit the heinous atrocities they are today is because of our schools.

God has been taken out, right and wrong has been taken out, discipline has been stripped away and problem kids are being doped up with psychotropic drugs.

If the gun-control crowd was interested in stopping the murder of innocent people, that would be a better starting point.

Ronald Reagan said that "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

The gun-rights community believes in freedom, we prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery, and we'll be damned if we're that one generation who gives away our freedom, and we'll fight like hell to protect it.

So on behalf of the rapidly-growing membership of Pennsylvania Firearms Association, we thank you to reject the gun-control proposals before this committee, and stand ready, willing and able to lobby this issue further in future elections.