

From: Christopher Barker <chrisbarker4ri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 3:56 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: "gun control"

House Judiciary Committee members:

As a constituent, I ask you to oppose the below referenced "gun control" bills that come before you. In most cases for these bills, I have copied and pasted a prior response to the same tired feel good, appease the donations to my re-election campaign and or appease the P.A.C. that lobbies me with the most demands. The gun itself is an inanimate object and the deadly intent and outcome is always driven by the wielder. Punitive action against law-abiding citizens is not and never will be the answer to this issue. These new gun control schemes will only harass law-abiding citizens. They will not improve public safety because criminals, by definition, do not obey the law as they ignore existing state and federal laws to illegally obtain firearms and commit crimes.

House Bill No. 7098 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC3956/1} (Exempts full-time members of the capitol police from the seven (7) day waiting period and other requirements for purchasing concealable firearms or rifles and shotguns.)

There can be no exceptions to the law and police should not qualify for exempt status. This is vote buying at best and accomplishes nothing for the public in general.

House Bill No. 7216 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC3492/1} (Defines "crime gun" and requires law enforcement to submit crime gun or 2 fired cartridge cases seized to state crime laboratory or the BATF for testing and tracing and also requires 2 test-fired cartridge cases to be entered into NIBIN.) -

"Crime gun" means any firearm used in a crime or identified by law enforcement as suspected of having been used in a criminal offense.

House Bill No. 7570 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC4332/1} (Allows law enforcement to utilize mufflers, silencers, or other devices for deadening or muffling the sound of a firearm while acting within the scope of their official duties under the supervision of the police chief or colonel of the state police.)

There can be no exceptions to the law and police should not qualify for exempt status. This is vote buying at best and accomplishes nothing for the public in general.

House Bill No. 7373 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES – WEAPONS {LC4005/1} (Requires safe storage of firearms/provides civil and criminal penalties for violations/adds rifles and shotguns to the types of firearms requiring a trigger lock to be included with purchase/requires firearms dealers post signs regarding safe storage.)

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE

House Bill No. 7373 SUB A 2024 -- H 7373 SUBSTITUTE AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES – WEAPONS SECTION 1. Sections 11-47-60.1 and 11-47-60.3 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-471 entitled "Weapons" are hereby amended to read as follows: 11-47-60.1. Safe storage Safe storage - Unsafe storage of a firearm. 3(a) Nothing in this section shall be construed to reduce or limit any existing right to purchase and own firearms and/or ammunition or to provide authority to any state or local agency to infringe upon the privacy of any family, home or business except by lawful warrant. A person who stores or leaves a firearm in any place is guilty of the violation of unsafe storage of a firearm unless the firearm is secured in a locked container or equipped with a tamper resistant mechanical lock or other safety device, properly engaged in order to render such firearm inoperable by any person other than the owner or other lawfully authorized user. This section does not apply to a firearm that is being carried by or can be readily carried by a lawfully authorized user who is in proximity to the firearm.

Both iterations of "safe storage" would impede if not eliminate one's right of self-defense which is one of the main principles of the second amendment. As I doubt criminals will allow a homeowner to access a "Safely stored" i.e. locked up weapon. At what point does a law-abiding citizen need to be penalized their very life in a home defense situation? This is just feel-good legislation and there is no precedent set forth in the second amendment. To legislate what I do in the privacy of my home is ludicrous. This is an appalling affront to common sense and I would not be surprised to if it violates the fourth amendment.

In closing I ask that the state refrain from again making law abiding citizens into criminals. Instead reaffirm my constitutional rights by opposing these infringements. Work to empower law-enforcement and prosecutors to hold violent criminals accountable for their actions by enforcing existing laws upon them, as that is something that will actually improve public safety. Members of the legislature you have the both the prerogative and resources to make a real and lasting impact on gun violence.

Sincerely,

Chris Barker - Lifelong Rhode Island resident and firearm owner