

Opposition of House Bill 7035

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Stephen Daignault, and I am here today to express opposition to House Bill 7035.

At its core, this legislation proposes limiting law-abiding citizens to the purchase or possession of no more than one firearm within a thirty-day period. While I understand the intent may be to address gun violence, this approach does not meaningfully target the individuals responsible for criminal activity.

Those who commit gun crimes do not follow lawful purchasing processes, nor do they adhere to statutory limits such as this. Firearms used in criminal acts are often obtained through illegal means—black market transactions, theft, or straw purchases—which this bill does not effectively address. As a result, the practical impact of this legislation falls almost entirely on lawful, vetted citizens who are already complying with existing regulations.

This raises a fundamental concern: the bill imposes additional restrictions on individuals who are not contributing to the problem it seeks to solve. In doing so, it risks creating a false sense of progress while leaving the underlying criminal behavior unchanged.

Additionally, there are constitutional implications that deserve careful consideration. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms. While courts have recognized that certain regulations may be permissible, limiting the number of firearms a law-abiding citizen can acquire within an arbitrary timeframe moves into a space that many view as an infringement on that right. It is a restriction placed not on misuse, but on lawful ownership itself.

Beyond the legal framework, there is also a matter of public trust. Policies that are perceived as restricting constitutional rights—without clear evidence of effectiveness—can erode confidence in government. Law-abiding residents expect that their rights will be protected and that legislation will be both targeted and impactful. Measures that do not directly address criminal behavior risk undermining that trust.

If the goal is to reduce gun violence, efforts should be focused on enforcement of existing laws, addressing illegal trafficking, and holding offenders accountable—strategies that are more closely aligned with the sources of the problem.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider House Bill 7035. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Stephen L Daignault Jr