

Opposition to House Bill No. 8071

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Stephen Daignault, and I am here to express opposition to House Bill 8071.

This legislation would require a background check for every purchase or transfer of ammunition and its components. While it may be presented as a public safety measure, it raises both constitutional and practical concerns.

From a constitutional standpoint, the Second Amendment protects not only the right to possess firearms, but also the ability to acquire and maintain them for lawful purposes. Ammunition is an essential component of that right. Requiring repeated background checks for ammunition purchases places an ongoing and burdensome condition on the exercise of a constitutional liberty—particularly for law-abiding citizens who have already undergone background checks to legally purchase their firearms.

From a practical perspective, this bill would create significant inefficiencies and strain on resources. Law enforcement agencies and background check systems would be required to process potentially high volumes of routine transactions, including purchases made for lawful purposes such as target practice, training, and sport shooting. Individuals who responsibly train or practice at ranges often purchase ammunition regularly. Requiring a background check for each transaction is not only redundant but also an inefficient use of public safety resources.

Additionally, this proposal does not directly address criminal behavior. Individuals who are intent on unlawful activity do not rely on regulated, legal purchasing channels. Instead, this bill imposes additional procedural barriers on those who are already complying with the law, while doing little to deter those who are not.

There is also a broader concern about the cumulative effect of continued restrictions. Layering additional requirements onto lawful ownership and use risks creating a system that is unnecessarily complex and discouraging to responsible citizens. Constituents are paying close attention to this pattern, and there is a growing perception that their rights are being incrementally restricted rather than protected. That perception erodes trust in government and in elected representatives.

If the goal is to enhance public safety, efforts would be better focused on enforcing existing laws and addressing illegal activity directly, rather than expanding regulatory requirements on lawful conduct.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose House Bill 8071. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully, Stephen Daignault