

Opposition to House Bill No. 8073

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Stephen Daignault, and I strongly oppose H 8073, as it represents a direct infringement on constitutionally protected rights and an expansion of government authority beyond its proper limits.

This legislation seeks to criminalize the manufacture, sale, possession, and purchase of certain firearms by labeling them as “prohibited.” At its core, this raises a fundamental concern: the Constitution does not grant the government the authority to declare commonly owned firearms illegal. The Second Amendment exists to protect the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and its purpose is clear—to serve as a check on government power, not as a mechanism for the government to restrict the freedoms of law-abiding citizens.

By moving to ban entire categories of firearms, this bill undermines that principle. It shifts the balance of power away from the people and toward the state, which is precisely what the Second Amendment was designed to prevent. Creating new criminal penalties for possession alone—impacting individuals who have committed no harmful act—further compounds this overreach.

Additionally, forcing lawful owners to dispose of their property under tight timelines or face severe penalties is coercive and unjust. It disregards the rights of responsible citizens and sets a troubling precedent that lawful ownership can be revoked by legislative action.

Constituents are paying close attention to how their elected officials uphold their oath of office. That oath includes defending the Constitution and the rights it guarantees. Supporting legislation that broadly prohibits firearms risks eroding public trust and signals a willingness to compromise fundamental liberties.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject H 8073 and to stand firmly in defense of the constitutional rights of your constituents.

Respectfully,

Stephen Daignault