

Dear Ms. Diehl:

With respect to H. 566, H. 567, and H. 568, I would like to point out the following:

- 1.) All three clearly and unambiguously stand in contravention of Title 24, section 2295, commonly referred to as the Vermont Sportsman's Bill of Rights -- passed in 1988 in order to insure uniformity of **all** firearms, hunting, fishing, and trapping laws statewide. Neither members of the Burlington City Council, nor Mayor Weinberger -- nor Burlington voters themselves -- should be able to push aside these pre-emptive protections that fall **exclusively** within the arena of **state** law.
- 2.) At least 2 of these proposals are of highly questionable constitutionality, based upon recent federal and US Supreme Court decisions regarding the Second Amendment. A third has been essentially rendered a nullity by the passage of H. 735 in early 2014. Via this law, firearms may **already** be confiscated in suspected domestic violence situations **statewide,** -- prior to any actual judicial review or due process of law. While this needs to be revisited as soon as possible, it currently stands as existing policy.
- 3.) NONE of these proposals will or ever could do a solitary thing to curb or reduce gun violence or other related crime. Let's be perfectly honest about what they are: Stepping stones to further and wider imposition of gun control for the sake of ultimately making firearms ownership a severely restricted privilege -- with of course the ultimate goal being its elimination altogether, save for government employees. And common criminals, of course, who will never surrender their arms, no matter what the laws may or may not say.

4.) NO individual right or liberty -- via the Second Amendment, Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution, or **any other** proviso -- should **ever** be subject to a popular vote. Such liberties are enshrined so as to forever shelter them from such wanton and reckless judgments that shift erratically based on temporary societal attitudes that come and go with the passage of time. History demonstrates conclusively that once a liberty is abrogated, it is indeed merely a further matter of time before it is eliminated entirely -- never to resurface again. Such is without question, despite their rhetoric to the contrary, the ultimate and final most cherished goal of the entire gun control movement.

As witness Ann Braden of Gun Sense Vermont's stance: The openly stated alleged **sole** goal of her organization is the passage of Universal Background Check legislation in Vermont.

Yet, she is publicly on record in her "official" capacity, openly proselytizing for these Burlington Charter Changes.

It is for all of these reasons, at a very minimum, that I would URGE you to kill these bills summarily and unilaterally in your committee.

Thank you.

Most Sincerely,

Timothy A. Ordway IT Specialist
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