

Good Morning Representatives,

Vermont is currently THE safest state in the nation.

Vermont has the **LOWEST** violent crime rate of 119 incidents per 100,000 according to the 2013 FBI crime statistics.

The FBI defines "violent crime" here: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/violent-crime>

"In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Violent crimes are defined in the UCR Program as those offenses which involve force or threat of force."

Enacting S141 will add a new type of "violent crime" to the Vermont statutes.

After S.141 is enacted into statute, a gun lying under a couch in a felon's home becomes an offense involving "threat of force" even though there was no threat, nor even the presence of anyone to actually threaten!

This harkens back to the Hollywood movie "Minority Report" where people were arrested and charged for so called "PreCrimes", that is, crimes they ARE GOING TO COMMIT IN THE FUTURE!

How close does S.141 come to doing exactly that?

Even if the firearm did not belong to the felon, but to another family member or friend, he is guilty of a violent crime.

This sounds a lot like news stories of travelers in New York and New Jersey being arrested for possession of firearms and high capacity magazines without proper paperwork, not for actually threatening or using them!

These are NEW crimes where the "object" IS a crime.

The FBI statistics going forward will reflect an artificial increase in VIOLENT CRIME for every gun found during a traffic stop, drug raid, search warrant or welfare check.

Even though there was no violence involved, the firearm need not be used, need not be on the felon's body, and can be located for instance, somewhere in the felon's home yet will still be classified as a violent crime.

People in Vermont will be charged with a violent crime even if not using the firearm.

For the first time in history, Vermont will drop from the top tier of safest states.

How will this effect insurance rates in Vermont if violent crime suddenly spikes for "gun crimes"?

How will this affect the tourist trade if Vermont plummets out of the top ten safest states?

How will this affect future firearm legislation?

What will people say when the FBI crime stats rise?

Pass S.141 and Vermont will no longer be the safest state.

If Vermont is no longer the safest state, "something needs to be done."
"We can't wait until something else happens..."
"Other states are doing it..."
"It's just common sense legislation..."

This is how the anti-gun forces are driving gun control in Vermont.

If there isn't a problem, they CREATE a problem.

If their "solution" doesn't change the facts, they alter the method of data collection to manufacture a problem that needs to be legislated.

It is a vicious cycle driven by outside influence and money.

You heard testimony from FIVE different supporters of this bill on Wednesday April 8th that ALL indicate S.141 will only be stepping stone to future gun control legislation in Vermont!

1 Dr David Coddair: Universal Background Checks are needed, "high capacity guns" and "assault rifle[s]" need to be addressed...
S.141 is "ONE SMALL STEP..."

2 Laurie Emerson: wants "safe storage" and "universal background checks" to stem "epidemic gun violence."

S.141 is just "ONE STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION..."

3 Auburn Watersong: wants "storage of guns" that are confiscated during domestic violence to be facilitated by state law.

S.141 is "A GREAT STEP FORWARD..."

4 Barbara Frankowski: "dissatisfied the present bill doesn't contain a provision for Comprehensive Background Checks..."

S.141 is "AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP..."

5 John Koutras: "The bill doesn't solve many of the issues regarding firearms... The elimination of expanding background checks... leaves a huge loophole..."

S.141 "THIS IS A FIRST STEP..."

S.141 "IS ONLY A SMALL MEASURE..." "BROADER INITIATIVES WOULD BE GREAT..."

Vermont is now nationally known as the #1 state for DRUG USE and DRUG CRIMES.

What happens when Vermont is also nationally known as the #1 state for GUN CRIMES?

Tourism will plummet and the economy of Vermont will decline to the lowest levels ever...

Vermont is being used as a nation-wide pawn for gun control.

We have heard this same exact anti-gun rhetoric before, with the exact same statistics, even though they have been nationally debunked for years.

Gun control will be back in Montpelier EVERY single year from now on unless you end it decisively, NOW.

The political and economic future of Vermont is at stake.

Please vote NO on S.141; do not let this damaging bill out of committee.

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