

From: Stewart Engelman
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 9:08 PM
Subject: PROTECT GUN FREEDOM IN VERMONT

Dear Member of Vermont Congress,

The Vermont State Senate fast tracked anti-gun Senate Bill 141 its their chamber in little over a week. Now the Vermont State Assembly looks eager to match the Senate by putting SB-141 on its agenda for everyday this week starting today. The Assembly is so eager to push this through, that Wednesday and Friday of this week are solely devoted to working on SB-141, with the possibility of a vote already penciled into the agenda for Friday afternoon. Simply put, out-of-State anti-gun activists are are trying to steal our Constitutionally guaranteed gun rights using the Vermont Legislature as a "tool." It is critical that all Vermont legislators oppose SB-141, as well as all other new anti-gun bills. The Vermont Legislature is now teetering on the brink of undoing firearms freedoms Vermonters have enjoyed for more than 200 years. These freedoms are not "privileges;" they are inalienable rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the US Constitution. Gun control laws, whether federal or State, are violations of federalism - the Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution makes it illegal for any federal or State law to limit or revoke any citizen right enumerated in the first ten Amendments.

Lawmakers in the State Senate have taken pieces of the anti-gun Expanded Background Check bill defeated earlier this year and placed it into SB-141. Now the Vermont Legislature is planning to ram this anti-gun bill through to a vote as early this week. If passed, SB-141 would be a direct assault on the due process rights of gun owners, and would lead to:

*** Retroactive gun bans for thousands of perfectly lawful gun owners in Vermont;

*** Disclosing the private healthcare records of law-abiding Vermont residents to the federal government for the purpose of illegally stripping gun rights;

*** Stripping Second Amendment rights from juveniles for their entire adult life for small misdemeanors committed as minors;

*** GUN CONFISCATION without any due process; and more.

Even worse, this bill lays the groundwork for even more gun control in Vermont in the future, by spending taxpayer money to fund a "research project" on future anti-gun proposals. Vermont has always been at the top of

the list of targets for anti-gun agitators. Billionaire gun-grabbers like Michael Bloomberg and the media cabal cannot stand that Vermont has the least restrictive gun laws in the nation, AND the lowest gun death rate in the nation. They're *furios* that Vermont has proven all of their theories about the effectiveness of gun control wrong. So they're going out of their way to impose new gun controls on Vermont any way they can - this time by trying to fool the Vermont Congress that legal gun ownership is somehow "too dangerous." All statistics show that State by State, country by country, gun control leads to MORE gun deaths. Criminals don't even want legal firearms, because they can be traced via tool-marks on spent bullets. Criminals use stolen guns purchased on the black market, and gun control will make them more likely to commit gun crime because they will be more assured that their victims are defenseless.

At root, this whole controversy is *not* about public safety. The federal Executive, under President Obama, is guilty of serial crime against the Constitution, of both the commission and omission variety. The abuses are endless, but include attempted and actual violations of free speech rights, free expression rights, free association rights, violations of freedom of religion and conscience, illegal searches, illegal seizures, illegal arrest and detainment, arrogation of State powers, and so much more. Obama and his federal Administration underlings know that the Ninth Amendment establishes the Declaration of Independence (DOI) as law, not merely a goodbye-letter to King George III. The DOI enumerates several inalienable citizen rights, the pivotal one being that citizens have the unalterable right to abolish and replace government by armed force if government tyranny becomes excessive and a long train of peaceful redress fails to end the tyranny. Rather than simply obey the Constitution as a matter of practice, which would resolve Obama's fears, Obama is choosing to serially break the Constitution because that is the only way he can achieve his overall anti-Constitutional "agenda;" he is thus frightened that a DOI inspired result may be in the offing at some point in the future, near or far. He thus wants to disarm the entire populace (not just Vermont). Again, this is *not* about public safety - *it's about Obama's safety and that of his supporters in the federal Executive. It's about the safety of Obama himself and his bureaucratic lackeys in DC.*

As an example of my point above, look at how hundreds of thousands of returning veterans have been denied their gun rights on trumped up charges of "severe mental illness," with absolutely no evidence that such illness exists, nor any practical way for these brave men and women to get off the "red list." Obama is terrified of veterans, because they are largely against his political agenda, and by definition, are experts at using firearms. So his "solution" is to simply pretend they are severely mentally ill, and deny their gun rights indefinitely. SB-141 is an extension of the same concept to

Vermonters at large. So-called "expanded background checks" will hone in on *anything* that could be construed to be even remotely related to mental health, without demonstrating any severe mental illness. Examples will include seeing a psychologist for any reason at all (such as short term help overcoming a personal crisis), taking a mild anti-depressant or anti-anxiety medication to address minor age-related neurological disorders, "tips" from neighbors that a person said he or she is "sad" or "nervous" about something in their lives, *anything*. One single flag, no matter how trivial, extant for even the shortest period of time, will be enough "justification" to terminate a person's gun rights forever.

As a Vermonter and a citizen of this great nation, I implore you to OPPOSE SB-141, as well as any other gun control scheme out-of-State anti-gun zealots dream up and try to impose on you. I close with the immortal and extremely wise words of one of our greatest Founders, Benjamin Franklin: "He that would sacrifice liberty for security, deserves, and will have, neither." What Franklin meant was that when government becomes strong enough to putatively protect you from all dangers, it becomes a greater threat than those it promised to protect you from. The shield of government becomes a sword, pointed at the very throats of those who entrusted their care to a protector that became larger than Goliath. Burning liberty on the false altar of security thus always leads to the loss of security as well.

"Liberty, once lost, is lost forever." (John Adams). PLEASE OPPOSE SB-141 - YOU WILL FIND THAT IF YOU TEAR UP LIBERTY, AND WISH TO LATER RESTORE IT, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO.

For Freedom,
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