

April 7, 2015  
Dear Legislators,

Please vote NO on S.141.

Vermont is the safest state in the nation. That is a fact that can be easily proven. All you need to do is consult non-partisan websites such as [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov) or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Both of these government agencies impartially report statistics on violence on a state-by-state basis. While it may sound counter-intuitive at first, the reports highly favor the states with the least restrictive gun control laws.

Less gun control...not more...works so well, there are more and more states following Vermont's example of Constitutional Carry. Just a few days ago, Kansas officially joined Vermont as the country's fifth Constitutional Carry state. You will see that state's rate of violence go down as a result.

The bottom line is this:

The gun laws that Vermont already has works for this state. There is no need to change them. The formula Vermont currently uses should not be messed with. Ever.

I grew up in New Jersey. A state with the most draconian gun control laws in the country. In that state, purchasing a firearm is literally a six month process, involving:

1. Paperwork at the local police department.
2. Fingerprinting.
3. Fees paid.
4. Having done the above, the issuing police department then sends letters to three of your friends asking them to write a short letter of recommendation on your behalf, which you hope they will.
5. Once the police department gets all of the above, the paperwork is sent to the proper authorities in the state where the process to get the permit takes around six months to complete, which in turn is only good for ninety days. If that deadline is missed for any reason, the process starts all over again. You will need to reprove your worth, even though you just did so.

All of that is for every gun you would like to purchase. Every single one...every single time.

And that's not all. There are more and more, stricter and stricter gun control laws being piled on top all the time in that state. It becomes clear after a while that New Jersey is not so much interested in reducing violence as much as merely discouraging gun ownership. That state really goes out if its way to accomplish that. And all those super-strict gun control laws do not work there.

So, what does all that have to do with Vermont gun laws?

I ask you this simple question: even though New Jersey has enacted some of the strictest, most restrictive gun control legislation in the country, from a safety standpoint, would you personally rather live in New Jersey or Vermont?

How about other extremely high gun control areas? Would you rather live in:  
Washington, DC or Vermont?  
Chicago or Vermont?  
Los Angeles or Vermont?  
New York or Vermont?

Vermont has a rich history dating back hundreds of years involving firearm ownership. A history that works for Vermont and Vermonters. And now, there is a movement taking place that is trying to destroy that. A movement that is attempting to introduce legislation that has not worked elsewhere. Legislation that is the beginning of a terrible thing here in Vermont.

S.141 seems like a nice, warm and fuzzy law. It is purposely designed to sound that way. In fact, S.141 has a piece within it that says a person who has been placed in the NICS database can petition to be removed from that database after eighteen months. That sounds like it would be reasonable, right?

The fact is that once a person is placed within the NICS database, that person is stuck in that blacklist forever. The bill suggests the person can START to petition to be removed after eighteen months but the federal government doesn't work that way. Congress has forbidden funding to the ATF regarding processing of applications. The ATF will not do it. People on this list, no matter how reformed they may become, can petition all they want but all they will ever see are letters of denial, over and over. And will the federal government respect the eighteen month mandate just because Vermont says it should?

*The eighteen month petition portion of the bill is a lie.*

S.141 is nothing more than a foot-in-the-door attempt to start ever-increasing chokehold legislation, much like has been enacted in the most dangerous places of this country. Places like New Jersey, New York, Chicago, Washington, DC, California and more.

Many of you are tempted to vote for S.141, not because you believe it will work, but merely feel you need "to do something." You may feel we need this law for the simple reason that other states enacted a similar one at one point or another and following the herd is the correct course of action.

That is a mistake. The fact is there is no problem in Vermont this law will fix. This law will damage a way of life other states in the country admire.

What I'm respectfully asking you to do is simple:

Please don't help to 'Jersey Vermont with gun control laws. Please vote NO on S.141.

Thank you for reading my plea.

Sincerely,  
William Waizenegger  
Rutland, Vermont