

From: Chris Bradley <vtfsc.president@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 12:39:20 PM
To: Maxine Grad
Subject: STATEMENT FROM VT FIREARM GROUPS

TO: All Vermont State Senators and Representatives

DATE: February 26, 2018

RE: Statement of Vermont Firearm's Groups on Firearms Issues

Dear Representative Grad

In response to the recent announcements by House and Senate leadership regarding the broad topic of Gun Control, the 2nd Amendment Support Groups of Vermont have met and have developed the following statement which we respectfully request you read. This group includes:

- * The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
- * The Gun Owners of Vermont
- * The Vermont Traditions Coalition

When it comes to issues concerning firearms, our expertise and experience is an open and available resource for your questions, concerns or comments on pending legislation. We are always open to constructive non-partisan discussion on policy, application and effectiveness.

Feel free to contact us using the information provided below:

* Chris Bradley, President - Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
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* Evan Hughes, Vice-President - Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
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* Ed Larson, Executive Director - Vermont Traditions Coalition
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* Frank Stanley, Lobbyist - Vermont Traditions Coalition
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* William Moore, Firearms Policy Analyst / Lobbyist - Vermont Traditions Coalition
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* Ed Cutler, President - Gun Owners of Vermont
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We would greatly appreciate your review of what follows.

Respectfully Yours,
Chris Bradley
President, Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Statement of Vermont 2nd Amendment Support Groups

1. We Support S.221 As It Passed Senate Judiciary Committee

We see S.221 as a Public Safety Bill, not as an anti-firearm bill. S.221 does not entirely please advocates on any side of the issues. We recognize however that S.221 in the form passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee is, on the whole, a relatively balanced product of a considered legislative process, and so we are prepared to support S.221 in the form passed by Senate Judiciary. However, if S.221 is subsequently amended in any manner that in any way restricts the rights or options of firearms owners, we will no longer support it, and will oppose it.

2. With the Passage of S.221, H.422 Becomes Un-Necessary

The removal of weapons in domestic assault cases are fully covered with uniform process and application in S.221. Bill S.221 gives law enforcement a robust and comprehensive tool box to address all violent crime situations effectively in a timely and comprehensive manner. Additionally, the record shows that H.422 was hurried through House Judiciary, introduced just two-weeks before cross-over. There are multiple concerns with it, civil rights violations of due process being just one of many. We further wish to make the full legislature aware of a comment made by one of the committee members in response to the sheer number of concerns we were able to raise in the limited amount of time allotted, and we paraphrase: "The more we look at this bill, the more problems we find. We need to pass this out of this Committee..." This statement was made mere hours before it was passed out. Full and exact quote will be forthcoming.

3. We Oppose S.6

There are a number of reasons why the majority of Senate Judiciary did not want to move S.6. Bill S.6 puts an ineffective and undue burden of prior restraint on law abiding Vermonters, while specifically not addressing criminal actions of individuals at any level. At best S.6 will be grossly ineffectual and virtually impossible to enforce, it will be evaded and ignored by criminals, and it will only serve to inconvenience and cause needless expense to those law-abiding citizens who would choose to follow it. Further, we see any deviation from the normal Committee process as being repugnant to the tradition and history of the Vermont legislative process. For a more comprehensive list of issues with this bill, please see/ask for our supporting bullet points.

4. We Oppose Further Restrictions On Firearms

We oppose legislation that would restrict firearms, magazines, or changes to the allowed age to purchase firearms that conflict with Federal law.

5. We Support Effective Law Enforcement

We have for many years worked with the legislature to develop Vermont's extremely effective laws as we did in 2015 to enact Act14 which provided accurate data to the Federal Background Data Base (NCIS). This follows our efforts in 2001 when we worked with Senator Dick Sears and Representative Bob Helm in successfully getting Vermont's criminal records into a condition that conformed to the standard the FBI required for acceptance into NCIS.

6. We Represent A Major Resource For Education and Training On Firearms

The gun rights and hunting community of Vermont have long supported and performed firearms safety training. The Hunter Education training program of Vermont is developed by staff employees of the Vermont Department of F&W. However, the courses are now, and have been for many decades, actually conducted by several hundred citizen volunteers at many of the clubs throughout our state. The same has long been true for firearms training for all types of firearms. Most law-enforcement agencies in Vermont use the ranges of our sporting clubs to practice, train and qualify.

7. We Believe that H.876 Will Become Irrelevant

The BATFE is already well underway with a rules change process that will allow these to be regulated. Further, the President has directed the DOJ to regulate them, and we are equally confident that Congress will act on this. A Federal solution here is preferable to avoid a patchwork of conflicting state laws.