

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 11:23 PM

To: Janet Miller

Subject: S.55 Bill

Dear Janet,

I am a Vietnam veteran and would like to add my voice against the S.55 anti gun bill. In my opinion, this bill is starting down a slippery slope against our second amendment. People, including our Senators and Representatives need to be aware that guns by themselves do not harm individuals. People harm individuals. I believe this bill is just a political ploy by Senators and Representatives to secure votes for their positions within our government.

Please forward this to our Senators and Representatives and ask them on my behalf to vote no on bill S.55.

Kind Regards,

Iver Bjerke

Charlotte, VT

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**From:** Peter Dubois

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018 6:08 PM

**To:** Janet Miller

**Subject:**

No new gun laws please not needed

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Please vote no on S5.5. It needs to be presented in a public hearing.

Again please vote no!

Best regards ,

Todd Emmell

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Dear Chairman Grad,

I am writing in regard to the recently introduced amendment to S.55. I am fully opposed to the introduction of such regulations that are brazenly aimed at law-abiding, gun owning citizens in Vermont. I too am saddened by the tragic events of Parkland, FL, but gun owners know that none of the regulations proposed within S.55. would have stopped this event from unfolding. Several red flags for laws already in place were missed or ignored, as admitted by local authorities and the FBI.

Vermont is one of the safest states in the country, even with its large per-capita gun ownership numbers. Limits on magazine capacity and waiting periods would not serve to make anyone safer. I would argue that the time to change magazines that are only capable of holding 10 rounds, versus a single "high capacity" magazine, is negligible. This language only serves to punish those who lawfully possess and utilize their firearms, and their rights are infringed upon due to the behavior of few.

I stand firmly opposed to the new language introduced in this proposed amendment. We should strictly enforce laws already in place. I hope you will consider this when voting on the amendment to S.55.

Respectfully,

Lane Perry  
152 Allen Rd. #235  
South Burlington, VT 05403

.....  
I oppose any new gun legislation

Harley banis guilford vt  
.....

Dear Legislators,

My husband and I live in Springfield, VT - District 3-2 and would like to express our concern for no new gun laws. **We request a hearing for S-55.**

Vermont has been one of the safest states in the USA along with New Hampshire and Maine. The recent school shooting in Florida was horrendous, but it clearly shows that many people saw something, said something to the Sheriff's Dept, FBI and the School and nothing was done. In fact during the shooting video shows the Sheriff's Deputy hiding behind a pillar while the shooting rampage was going on.

The criminals, mentally ill will not comply with all the legislation you can create, all this will do will hinder law abiding citizenry from protecting themselves.

Just recently there was another attempt at a school shooting in Maryland, however Maryland School had an armed Resource Officer who quickly neutralized the treat. Background checks, more gun regulations, did not prevent this shooting, but an armed school resource officer.

We need to really focus on mental health, the psychotropic medications, like SSRIs, Chantix, Paxil, ADHD medications, opioids, antidepressants, tranquilizers, etc that are so prevalent in our society that often have devastating side effects. Nothing is said about that - this goes way back to the Texas Clocktower sniper back in the 1960s.

I hope to hear back from you.

Respectfully yours,

Keith and Lori Ranney  
18 Litchfield St.  
Springfield, VT 05156  
.....

No to S. 55

Why is nobody talking about the real issue which is school safety Sent from my iPhone  
Dan Rapphahn

.....  
After reading more stuff on the S55 bill, I saw the house voted in favor 6-5 for this bill.

I'd like to start off by saying this is an infringement on my rights as a US citizen and as a Vermonter.

Why raise the age up to 21..? I already have my own hunting rifle and I'm a responsible, law-abiding citizen. Now I don't have the right to self-protection? Who has the right to tell me when I should be able to buy a gun? Or can I say I'm not "responsible" enough because I'm 19.

For the magazine ban on anything above 10rds. That law is just a joke. 10rds or 30rds, what's the difference if a criminal is going/wanting to do damage? But yet again, let's only hurt the law-abiding citizens.

Universal background checks? Those won't work at all, I've sold guns and bought guns privately, and how are you going to know when that happens or who even has them now?

Can we please take into consideration that these laws won't work? We saw the shooting in Maryland where an armed guard stopped the threat. Why don't we place in law that schools need armed security?

We haven't had issues with anyone 18-20 with guns except that one teen a few weeks ago. Why all of a sudden are we doing stuff now?

Jacob Holmberg (802) 922-0806 60 Brickyard rd unit 19 Essex Junction VT, 05452  
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Hello Maxine,

Please do not vote for S.55, it is very over the top for Vermont.

Regards,

Scott Waite  
.....

All,

I would like to express my dismay and anger at your yes vote on Senate Bill 55 today.

Shame on you.

This day, you have rubberstamped an attack on the rights of good and decent Vermonters, and your ink is the blood of the innocent victims of criminals and madmen.

It bears a stench that will not wash easily from your hands.

As a gun owner, I and many others are aware that this made it out of committee by the slimmest of margins.

I can assure you that Vermont's gun rights community will continue to fight this unnecessary and unjust attack on our rights with great vigor.

And we will prevail, and you will be held to account.

Jeremiah Caron

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I would like you to vote No on S.55 and also request that they hold public hearings on this bill. I do realize this is a hot topic right now and think the public should have a chance to speak up.

Bill Robinson  
Warren, Vermont

.....  
**Subject:** Gun Control

Ms Grad,

It is very disappointing that you, along with the other Democrats on the committee are so short sighted and in a rush to get something, anything done on gun control that you would pass on to the full house your recommendations for gun control in Vermont.

While I agree with strengthening background checks, more funding for mental health and potentially closing the gun show loop hole, private sales in Vermont have never been an issue, nor has adults 18-21 purchasing long rifles.

I find it amazing that a 17 year old can go buy an automobile, weighting several tons, drive it down the road and potential issues that has is OK but the same person is not allowed to purchase a rifle.

I find it amazing that the same person once they turn 18 can vote but not purchase a firearm.

I find it amazing that same 18 year old can enter the military but not purchase a rifle in the safest state in the union.....

I find it amazing that same 18 can lawfully wed, have children but you deem them not mature enough to purchase a firearm.....

Michael Rozzi  
South Burlington, Vermont

.....  
Just wanted to let you know that I am opposed to the S.55 s.221 and H675 bills.

Thank you, Bill Buryk

.....

Sirs

I am writing in regards to S.55 a bill changing everyday it seems without regards to the people of Vermont or their opinions.

We can not pass laws without careful consideration and based on the heat of the moment

We need to have public hearings so the voice of the people can be heard when dealing with rights handed down to us by our forefathers and paid for with so many lives.

Scott M Doveowolski

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Ms Miller,

There are several aspects of S.55 that do not represent Vermont sentiments. Clearly there should be public hearings to gather this information before a vote.

STEVEN MARTIN

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We respectfully ask that you pass along our message to our legislators, we want them to vote "no" to the SS. 55 Bill. We are willing to accept raising the age to purchase firearms to the age of 21 , but ask that an exemption be added for those who have completed a safety course or VT approved hunter Safety course. We agree that bump stocks should be banned and are pointless. We agree background checks should be bolstered and a universal program should be adopted and strengthened. We don't understand how personal firearm sales will be regulated- that piece of the bill seems impossible to enforce. We ask that our lawmakers and representatives rethink the S.55 Bill and spend more time making a well-thought-out piece of legislation than the rushed crappy Bill that is being presented now. I think everyone can agree we want to do our best to end gun violence (or all violence). This Bill is not the answer to our problems.

Respectfully,

Brit & Marc Aube, Starksboro Residents.

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My name is Cindy Sawicki from Newark VT and I strongly oppose S.55. I oppose any and all gun control. Both the VT and the U.S. Constitutions are very clear, that our right to bear arms shall not be infringed upon. I vote no on S.55. Thank you!

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Im writing to tell you I do not wish fir any new gun laws in Vermont tho I'm sure this will fall on def ears.

Greg Undahood

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I am demanding public hearings on S.55. This must not pass on Friday. This is far over reaching legislation on our gun rights and is simply not needed. Vermont has very little gun violence and it will do nothing but affect law abiding gun owners.

Thank you

John Jewell

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Attended and spoke at last night's forum in Barre city.

I called and thanked our Representatives for allowing the citizens of Vermont a chance to speak.

S 55 does nothing to protect children or "school safety"

It violates the US 2nd Amendment and the Vermont Constitution 16a

Vermont is the 2nd safest state for a reason. We're not NY, FL, etc.

Whoever supports S 55 will never get my support or vote again.

I heard the same last night from everyone.

Our Governor tops that list now. By his folding to a gun grab versus honest legislation that actually is for school safety.

Using children to ram through unneeded, tyrannical bans and restrictions is abhorrent.

Not being able to reach the state house to speak as a citizen of Vermont is disconcerting to say the least.

This is Vermont. And the United States of America.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Houle, Jr.

29 Foss Street

Barre, VT 05641

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While I supported S.55 in its form as passed unanimously by the Vermont Senate, I am FIRMLY opposed to any and all subsequent changes made by the House Judiciary Committee.

The 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution and Article 16 of the Vermont State Constitution are immutable, in this case because they deal with the basic human right and requirement of self defense. This must NEVER be abrogated nor diminished in any way for any reason !! To attempt to do so is inhuman, grossly irresponsible and dangerous. The solution to the problems we face in this country of violence must be addressed at their sources. The tools used to commit violent crimes are not the problem. Instead, focus on the performance of the crime and, perhaps, factors affecting the criminal's propensity to commit the violent crime.

Further, in view of the failures in handling of emails and phone calls submitted properly by myself, wife, son, friends and others to yourselves, such that they were not delivered to you, and in the interests of democracy, justice and fairness, I demand you open discussion on S.55 to a full and public hearing.

Thank you very much,

Jeffrey Kaufman, M.D.

21 North Willard St

Burlington, VT 05401

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21 March 2018

I'm wanted to let you know that I'm opposed to the gun control bill S-55 and any other gun control measure that the VT legislature is or may consider.

This bill in my opinion a solution in search of a problem.

VT has one of the lowest rates of gun related crimes in the US. This bill will only serve to punish the law abiding citizens of Vermont.

Thank you for your time

John Paro

2090 Huntington Road

Richmond VT

05477

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The proposed s.55 bill is completely unfair and needs to be voted down. You can't ban all semi autos that would mean 90% of handguns tones of shotguns used for hunting and alot of hunting rifles. And if the ban ever did go through whos going to repay the hundreds of millions of dollars to the people who legally purchased them? This needs to be voted down and come up with something else. Im all for safer schools but this is not how it's done. Thanks.

Charles Capriola

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today in OPPOSITION to S.55 and it's components. I hope the voices of VT sportsmen and women have been heard and will be respected! I came to VT for college and have moved here permanently based on the freedoms that are respected and upheld. Passing any new legislation as a knee jerk reaction to the violent acts of deranged people is unacceptable and an attack on the rights of the law abiding.

We have laws on the books already, we've seen how VT slaps violent criminals on the wrist, releases repeat DUI and drug offenders even when firearms are illegally possessed. What good will come from

more laws? This question has never been answered by those attacking the second amendment. The background check system is flawed, look at the navy yard shooter, and more recently the student in florida, people will still pass background checks! 30 round magazines are standard sizes, there is no such thing as an assault weapon, and a waiting period will only delay actions people are set on committing.

RESPECT US! the law abiding citizens who voted you in to protect our state and federal constitutions. VOTE NO on S.55!

Thank you,

Adam Carparelli

Burlington

Chittenden County

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**Subject:** S.55 / S.221 / H.675

Good morning folks,

I'm sending this to all of you in hopes it makes it past the spam folder as I understand you've been getting lots of e-mail on these bills. I strongly urge you to vote no on these bills due to all the add-ons. And the fact that most of the language in these proposed bills would do absolutely nothing to curb gun violence. I do support S.221 as it originally was written and voted on by the Senate Judiciary Committee. But do to amendments and add-ons I do not support any of these bills currently.

I also urge you to make sure all e-mails and phone messages regarding S.55 reach our legislators. Also please hold a public hearing on S.55. I feel a public hearing is a must.

Sincerely

Randall E. Bates

Bennington Vermont

Business owner Bennington.

Former officer 16 years and current member of a Colchester Vermont corporation.  
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Good Morning, first of all I would like to thank Paul, Tom, Topper, Robert for setting up a public meeting so the public can vocalize their thoughts.

I have attached a video by Gov. Matt Bevin of Kentucky regarding gun control



being the solution to school violence. Gov. Bevin articulates much better than

I do and I encourage you to take a few minutes to watch this video.

[http://www.kentuckynewera.com/multimedia/video/news/youtube\\_c2674705-960f-52ed-b8d8-9d2c34d514e4.html](http://www.kentuckynewera.com/multimedia/video/news/youtube_c2674705-960f-52ed-b8d8-9d2c34d514e4.html)

I do not support ban on automatic guns - will accomplish nothing, I would allow assault weapon ban. But leave my shot gun alone, it has only 5 round magazine.

Ban on high capacity magazine - this will accomplish nothing. I have a Glock and I can change the magazine in less than 3 seconds. The Parkland Florida shooter was using 10 round magazine.

Mandatory background checks seem reasonable if there are provision that will allow law enforcement to react if they deem a person should not have a gun.

Guns must be locked up in safe storage - safes are expensive, I can't afford one as I am retired and on fixed income.

10 day waiting period seems plausible.

Must be 21 to buy any gun, we can send 18 year olds to defend our country but can't own a gun. This makes no sense to me.

In summary I ask that you vote no on S.55.

I believe you are focusing on totally the wrong position. The gun is an inanimate object and can do nothing on its own. In every case of mass shooting there have been warning signs that the person completing these horrific acts are mentally deranged and nothing done to stop them.

Blaming guns is like blaming a vehicle for traffic fatalities.

Are we going to blame the bridge in Florida for the 7 deaths or the people behind construction of this bridge.

You are an elected official representing the majority of the voters in Vermont and I ask again that you do not support S.55.

I ask that you share with me what each of your positions is on this proposed action.

I am going to send this to Gov. Scott.

Sincerely,

George Scribner

21 Countryside Dr.

Barre, Vermont

802-476-8070

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Good Morning ! I'll be brief I respect you are very busy.

I am life long Vermonter, born in Bennington. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 55.

We must protect our rights and families, those of us who live in rural Vt. areas. Please be advised we know how complicated this issue can become.

Than you for your cooperation with this matter.

Nick Charest

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Hello Representative LaLonde,

I am frustrated with the legislation that the state is trying to push through on gun control. It does NOTHING to prevent the senseless harm we have seen as of late. We live in one of the safest states in the country and are now trying to turn it into an unsafe landscape like Chicago! We should be addressing the real issue of mental health and it's impact. We should not be encouraging walkouts, we should encourage our children to walk in and take the time to bring the outcasts into the fold and not shun them. We should be encouraging our teachers to embrace and help the difficult students and not push them away. This is common sense! Is it not?

I am now learning of new language in S.55 and do not support it at all! Where is the public hearing!!!

"I oppose Further Restrictions On Firearms. I also oppose legislation that would restrict firearms, magazines, or changes to the allowed age to purchase firearms that conflict with Federal law."

Please understand that I strongly oppose S.55, H.422, S.221 (as it is now being revised) & S.6, and I view these as violations of my Second Amendment rights.

As a sitting member of the House Judiciary Committee I hope you relay my thoughts and requests to the members of the committee.

I look forward to your response.

Take care,  
Joshua Dobrovich are,

Joshua

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I have great concerns about S.55. This bill has undergone many changes in the past few days, and needs a full PUBLIC HEARING prior to any further discussion or voting in the legislature.

S.55 sets precedent on naming under-21 year olds as minors, does NOTHING to address MENTAL HEALTH, and does NOTHING to improve compliance with mandatory REPORTING requirements for prohibited persons to the NICS database. A "Universal" background check is worthless if data is not being properly reported into the database. As has been seen time and time again, people committing violent acts are legally buying firearms WITH a successful background check (Fair Haven VT is such an instance). This is because the health care industry hides behind "patient confidentiality" and is not reporting people who truly are a danger to self and others. Until this is resolved, and reporting is MANDATORY (with fines and/or jail sentences), the so-called UBC will not be effective.

This is mostly "feel good" legislation that will hurt a lot of Vermonters, and will not actually solve some of the real problems that allow violence to occur in our schools, workplaces, and public places.

I urge you to delay this legislation, have a full PUBLIC HEARING, and to VOTE NO on this legislation until it is rewritten to address the real problems that confront us.

I hope that you will respond, specifically with information about what is being done with MENTAL HEALTH and mandatory reporting to NICS.

David Schuler  
Jericho VT

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I Jonathan Blanchard demand a public hearing on S.55.  
We don't need gun control! Guns don't kill people! People kill people!  
We need Educational facilities to control and educate their students and parents to control and educate their children!

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my name is Joell Martel I live in barre city and I say no to s.55 bill  
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I am send this to demand a public hearing on S. 55! The way this whole bill has been back doored to avoid hearing the Vermont citizens out on the matter is a disgrace! It's time the majority of the Vermont citizens get a chance to be heard!! It's our right along with our second amendment rights that the Vermont state house is trying to trample all over!! Thank you for passing our message along!

Sincerely,  
Victoria L. Kelley

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I'm writing to voice my opposition to S.55 and any or all new gun control measures in the future. Any legislation is violation of Article 16 of the VT constitution, which has been upheld by the VT Supreme Court. Please forward my message to my elected Representatives, which I believe is Rutland District 5-1. Thank you.

Randy Hyjek  
9 East St.  
Rutland VT

.....  
I'm writing to inform you that I do not want any new gun laws my name is Peter Dubois I live in Williamstown Vermont no new gun laws I am a 52 year old that and a registered voter  
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