

I am strongly **opposed** to S.55 including all of the LaLonde amendments, and universal background checks. I am also strongly **opposed** to H.675.

These bills are in direct violation of Article 16th of the Vermont Constitution. It is quite obvious to me that opportunist ideology is front and center rather than genuine attempts at securing schools and protecting children. As a mother of a young child in an isolated rural area which has experienced home invasions, I should be able to protect myself against a criminal, not feel as if I am a criminal myself. Why should I, as a law-abiding citizen, be limited to protect myself with a smaller magazine? The 10-round magazine limitation would make a number of common hand guns used for self-protection illegal. So this leads me to my next question. How will this be enforced? It seems this is just a first step in the ultimate end game of gun registration and confiscation.

Criminals will always ignore and bypass gun laws. As a state we need to look at making our schools more secure. The majority of Vermont households have firearms and I truly believe it does act as a deterrent. I'm not necessarily for arming teachers but I do feel we should face the reality that schools are easy targets for those who wish to do harm, particularly those that announce they are 'gun free zones'. I would like to see tighter control for entry into schools. That seems to be the best first preventive step to keep our children safe. In my office building you had to be buzzed in to enter and also had to swipe a card to gain entry to secure areas. During my 13+ years of working for this employer we had a close call where a colleague's spouse had threatened to do harm at our office place. Unfortunately this man killed my friend and himself and I wonder what could have happened if he attempted to do this at my place of work.

Furthermore, a number of VT state office buildings do not have an 'open door' policy either, particularly our courts. A common sense investment is to better screen entry into our schools to make it much harder for someone who wishes to do harm.

In contrast, I do **support** S. 221, as written and passed out of the Senate. This is reasonable public safety legislation and provides the individual with due process. I do **not** support any gun control amendments being attached to S. 221.

I appreciate your consideration of my perspective.

Kind regards,

Allison Cassavechia  
Newark, Vermont

.....  
To whom all this concerns:

It is very difficult to keep up with all the proposed legislation concerning gun restrictions. As a law abiding sportsman I am against the current measures listed in S.55 and respectfully request that a vote of no be presented.

I know some measures need to be taken to ensure safety of our schools and public. I feel this proposal goes to far and would like to see laws passed that make more sense, address the real problems and do not infringe on the rights of innocent firearms users.

Thank you for your time.  
Respectfully, Ron Waldo  
Randolph, VT

My name is Carl Lavigne and I live in Georgia VT. I am deeply concerned about what is proposed in

S.55. It is my strongest wish that all representatives vote NO on S.55. We have enough gun laws in Vermont and don't need any more.

**Subject:** Gun bill

here's a piece of info for you to present to the comity .alex evens of St. Albans v t broke into neighbors home stole safe with many guns in it cut the safe open with a grinder took said guns and sold them .he was given 3 to 5 in prison last summer and was released 4weeks ago after only six months or so in jail I know this because he is my neighbor at my camp in St. Albans . This is totally not Enforcing the laws we have now so why add new ones .also I can tell ya a story of 6 meth heads that invaded my home and it took 25 minutes for state police to get there while I dealt with them with my firearm and they left before the cops go here it took 6 months for me to get them to press charges and only did so because I told state attorney that I was going to write to the paper this is how well they take care or victims in these situations I still worry they will be back as they threaten to come by and do a drive by on my house when they took off that day this is vermonts way of dealing with criminals and making victims out of victims and by the way Alex is living right back across the street from nis victim. As a victim of violent crime I do not support any new laws as the ones we have now are not enforced and this bill will only penalize law abiding citizens .the criminals do not follow laws and the justice system doesn't enforce the ones we have now.

Thanks  
Ron Phillips  
448 hall rd south Ryegate v t. 05069

I oppose any new gun laws

Harley banis from guilford vt.

To whom and all this needs to pertain to in Vermont government, this bill tramples all over the supreme law of the land The Constitution of The United States of America established by our founding fathers. I can agree to ban bump stops there's no need for these contraptions, beyond that any bans on any firearm are infringing upon our second amendment rights to bear and maintain a well armed(( (this was meant to allow armaments on par with what our governments military has available))) and trained militia for the protection of ourselves, families and fellow countrymen and women. The second amendment has no

bearing upon hunting, it was established to protect us from overbearing government and tyranny such as we the good people of the great state of Vermont and in the greatest country in the world The United States of America are seeing( Attempted ) in this Bill and anything else you ELECTED folks to try to sneak into it before it gets voted on.We're bad, we haven't been paying as much attention to the government as we should maybe have been, tied up with life's everyday work and personal duties to realize that those neighbors we elected to protect our constitutional rights are actually going astray and are letting the bigger happenings and this overrun of political correctness skew their minds and common sense in dealing with this matter. As a voting Vermonter, I am putting all on notice you are under many watchful eyes now and we vote. We encourage the elected to drop the politically correct crap and use some common sense, Vermont has a long and proud heritage of good people with a family tradition of hunting and well-taught youth about proper firearm handling and use and common sense of said firearms and urge the elected to use the same common sense with the drafting of this bill. This bill can be a very simple one ban Bump stops period, and let it end there. As far as background checks we are required already to do so and do so to comply with those laws, the only improvement that as far as I've seen that needs improvement id getting proper input being put into databases as it seems our military establishment, as well as other agencies, have lacked due diligence it getting that information into the background check database the government has plenty of checks and balances in place they need to crack down on discipline within and make sure it's being properly applied .So I ask that we have a NO GO /NO WAYvote as the bill S.55 currently stands.

Sincerely Ralph Johnson

.....  
I urge you to vote "NO!" on S.55. Our God-given right to self-defense "Shall not be infringed."

Brian Vogel

.....  
Hi my name is harley banis im from a small town of guilford and a NRA supporter, i enjoy target shooting and practice gun safety. I dont believe we need to pass any new gun laws. I believe people have mental health issues that need to be looked at. And the media seems to blow things way out of proportion and almost are glorifying these shootings. Which than makes another mentaly ill person want to copycat. It takes a sick minded person to create hanis acts like this, not your everyday average man or woman. I blame violent movies vidio games media and medication. These people dont have a connection with reality and its sad good people will possibly loose there rights because of a bad couple  
.....

**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 5:11 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** Do you speak for me?

Dear Elected official Maxine Grad,

Do you speak for me and others in this state? People like me- a mother, 6th generation Vermonter, and firearm owner. I'm curious because during election cycles we are sent cards, letters and emails asking for our vote. I am told politicians like you will be our voice, you will listen and protect our rights. Where are you now? Why is it you are happy to hear me and others like me when you are campaigning, but join a cabal of other legislators whose politics are all in line with gun control?

The amendments on S.55 are completely and utterly ridiculous. I am shocked that a representative who has lived here for all of 11 years thinks he has the pulse on all the residents of this state. I am further shocked that there is little to no outrage over the lack of security protocols and that in the most recent school incident in *another state*, the FBI failed-not firearm owners.

When my priest was killed in 9/11 there was a call and a movement for safety. It did not revolve around banning planes, flying, or even owning box cutters. It involved securing pilot doors, additional airport screening and seeing if individuals were a danger before they ever stepped foot on an aircraft. That- is an example of "common sense."

I sent my recommendations to Governor Scott, one day before he sent out his draft memo of ideas. When you parrot DC propagandists with terms and amendments calling it "common sense" gun reform here is what you are missing:

\* Holding offenders accountable for their actions. By blaming tools, and the NRA- you are exonerating the individual responsible. You are also supporting astroturf anti gun movements that are bringing money and people here from out of state to push their agenda. Michael Bloomberg ring a bell?

\*We know schools are targets. Make them safer. It's not rocket science! Just like at airports and government offices. If this is really about safety, then make the damn schools safer!

\*Support and fund anger management in schools. WHY is this not on the table? Do you know how many registered anger management specialists there are in southern VT? I do- one. Me. Anger stemming from poor home environments, bullying, and other factors are often the catalyst in these events and you should be demanding that add a layer of support services to reach those on the verge.

\*Support firearm safety training just like we have for hunters. You want to empower women? Offer "women on target" courses, or personal protection courses. As the opioid crisis continues in Vermont, we are seeing more people at risk of being victims. I live in a town with no town police force. I deserve the right to protect myself and my children how I see fit. Not how you tell me I should see fit.

\*Raise the price of firearms. Call it a tax, and use it to fund safety and education programs. People will hate it, but if the money is put toward firearm safety, people WILL support it.

Calling for a ban certain firearms is a lazy initiative and will not stop a person who intends to harm another. Your feel good moment will end the first time someone uses a knife, a bomb, or handgun to hurt someone. And then what...keep banning firearms until there are none left? Will you have that "humanitarian with a guillotine" feeling as you walk into a building that has security while my boys go to school and come home without any?

AR-15's- do not "assault." Assault is verb not a noun. Ask a disabled hunter, or a sportsman with Rheumatoid Arthritis why they use semi-automatics. I honestly feel like legislators need to understand and educate themselves about firearms before they create amendments like the ones attached to S.55. Those who would be affected by this are not criminals. These are good people, voters, who you told you would listen to, and be there voice. I have spoken to so many in our state, mostly native Vermonters, who are disappointed in all of you. They feel some of you have come to this state with the intention of making it like wherever you came from. Others, simply see you as wanting national attention and to be seen as following your political party's agenda. If you only speak for one subset of the state- who pray tell speaks for the rest of us?

Please stop exploiting kids as your catalyst for discrimination against law abiding firearm owners. It's disgusting. Despite the image anti gun supporters are portraying about us- we are actually an example of some of the most responsible citizens in our nation in regards to firearms. The safest state in the nation regardless of the propaganda. And we deserve a voice. Which one of you will speak for me and thousands like me? A woman, a mom, and a firearm owner. Empower me to protect myself in the manner I choose.

Signed,

Donna Lauzon

mom, native, and proud supporter of 2A and Article 16

.....  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 3:03 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** Think carefully through proposed S.55

As a law-abiding Vermont citizen, I respectfully and strongly urge you to Vote No on S.55.

This anti-gun measure and its proposed amendments seek to ban commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms, most standard capacity magazines and also mandate locked firearm storage. Further, the amendment also creates a 10-day delay for gun purchases, essentially ending Vermont gun shows, which has a rich tradition amongst responsible Vermont citizens.

Vermont is one state where there are more responsible firearm owners! So why is the Vermonter being penalized and criminalized? Gun safety is always in the forefront of our communities. We don't live in a urban war zone, so why are Vermonters being threatened? Vermont has been one of the safest states in the nation because we have appreciated and respected our 2nd amendment and don't abuse it.

I see S.55 as an ultimate threat to the future of Vermonter's 2nd amendment rights. I also see a lot of pressure on law makers such as yourself which is being fueled media propaganda machines which hold no water.

Folks who follow the media claims end up parroting what they are saying without any logical thinking or evidence behind it. Listen to your citizens. Let Florida pass the law first and see what happens. Don't jump the gun just because everyone else is doing it. We need to use wisdom and not emotions.

I also believe that passing this amendment will only fuel the black market - even in Vermont so the Sportman who wants to compete at a gun show will be the new criminal? Yet the real criminals will get their AR-15 with bump stock and perhaps will graduate to a machine gun behind our backs and continue their evil shooting sprees. Criminals are not threatened by S.55. New York's Safe Act has failed and did nothing to protect the residents of NY.

Also, how is the UBC going to be enforced? Only law-abiding citizens will go through a UBC and for Vermonters? I don't know. I think this law just might create more crime if folks feel their 2nd amendment rights are threatened. They will turn to the Black Market so, in essence this amendment is going to create more criminals out of common law abiding Vermont citizens. I think it is a mistake and lawmakers are feeling pressure to respond much too quickly. Please carefully consider all consequences of this shaky proposed amendment.

Again, as a fellow Vermont resident and your constituent, I strongly urge you to Vote No on S.55 then reconsider other options.

Respectfully, Sue H.

.....

**Sent:** Sunday, March 18, 2018 3:03 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** Think carefully through proposed S.55

As a law-abiding Vermont citizen, I respectfully and strongly urge you to Vote No on S.55.

This anti-gun measure and its proposed amendments seek to ban commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms, most standard capacity magazines and also mandate locked firearm storage. Further, the amendment also creates a 10-day delay for gun purchases, essentially ending Vermont gun shows, which has a rich tradition amongst responsible Vermont citizens.

Vermont is one state where there are more responsible firearm owners! So why is the Vermonter being penalized and criminalized? Gun safety is always in the forefront of our communities. We don't live in a urban war zone, so why are Vermonters being threatened? Vermont has been one of the safest states in the nation because we have appreciated and respected our 2nd amendment and don't abuse it.

I see S.55 as an ultimate threat to the future of Vermonter's 2nd amendment rights. I also see a lot of pressure on law makers such as yourself which is being fueled media propaganda machines which hold no water.

Folks who follow the media claims end up parroting what they are saying without any logical thinking or evidence behind it. Listen to your citizens. Let Florida pass the law first and see what happens. Don't jump the gun just because everyone else is doing it. We need to use wisdom and not emotions.

I also believe that passing this amendment will only fuel the black market - even in Vermont so the Sportman who wants to compete at a gun show will be the new criminal? Yet the real criminals will get their AR-15 with bump stock and perhaps will graduate to a machine gun behind our backs and continue their evil shooting sprees. Criminals are not threatened by S.55. New York's Safe Act has failed and did nothing to protect the residents of NY.

Also, how is the UBC going to be enforced? Only law-abiding citizens will go through a UBC and for Vermonters? I don't know. I think this law just might create more crime if folks feel their 2nd amendment rights are threatened. They will turn to the Black Market so, in essence this amendment is going to create more criminals out of common law abiding Vermont citizens. I think it is a mistake and lawmakers are feeling pressure to respond much too quickly. Please carefully consider all consequences of this shaky proposed amendment.

Again, as a fellow Vermont resident and your constituent, I strongly urge you to Vote No on S.55 then reconsider other options.

Respectfully, Sue H.

.....  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:06 PM

**To:** Selene Colburn

**Subject:** No Way No How on S.55 and other Gun Control Legislation.

Hello Representative Colburn,

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!

“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

.....  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 2:07 PM

**To:** Martin LaLonde; Bill Botzow; Mitzi Johnson; Cynthia Browning; [rchestnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:rchestnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us); Timothy Corcoran; Rachael Fields; Brian Keefe; Alice Miller; Laura Sibilina

**Subject:** Say no to S.55 and its amendments

Dear Elected officials,

Which one of you speak for me and others in this state? People like me- a mother, 6th generation Vermonter, and firearm owner. I'm curious because during election cycles we are sent cards, letters and emails asking for our vote. I am told you will be our voice, you will listen and protect our rights. Where are you now? Why is it you are happy to hear me and others like me when you are campaigning, but join a cabal of other legislators whose politics are all in line with gun control?



The amendments on S.55 are completely and utterly ridiculous. I am shocked that a representative who has lived here for all of 11 years thinks he has the pulse on all the residents of this state. I am further shocked that there is little to no outrage over the lack of security protocols and that in the most recent school incident in *another state*, the FBI failed-not firearm owners.

When my priest was killed in 9/11 there was a call and a movement for safety. It did not revolve around banning planes, flying, or even owning box cutters. It involved securing pilot doors, additional airport screening and seeing if individuals were a danger before they ever stepped foot on an aircraft. That- is an example of "common sense."

I sent my recommendations to Governor Scott, one day before he sent out his draft memo of ideas. When you parrot DC propagandists with terms and amendments calling it "common sense" gun reform here is what you are missing:

\* Holding offenders accountable for their actions. By blaming tools, and the NRA- you are exonerating the individual responsible. You are also supporting astroturf anti gun movements that are bringing money and people here from out of state to push their agenda. Michael Bloomberg ring a bell?

\*We know schools are targets. Make them safer. It's not rocket science! Just like at airports and government offices. If this is really about safety, then make the damn schools safer!

\*Support and fund anger management in schools. WHY is this not on the table? Do you know how many registered anger management specialists there are in southern VT? I do- one. Me. Anger stemming from poor home environments, bullying, and other factors are often the catalyst in these events and you should be demanding that add a layer of support services to reach those on the verge.

\*Support firearm safety training just like we have for hunters. You want to empower women? Offer "women on target" courses, or personal protection courses. As the opioid crisis continues in Vermont, we are seeing more people at risk of being victims. I live in a town with no town police force. I deserve the right to protect myself and my children how I see fit. Not how you tell me I should see fit.

\*Raise the price of firearms. Call it a tax, and use it to fund safety and education programs. People will hate it, but if the money is put toward firearm safety, people WILL support it.

Calling for a ban certain firearms is a lazy initiative and will not stop a person who intends to harm another. Your feel good moment will end the first time someone uses a knife, a bomb, or handgun to hurt someone. And then what...keep banning firearms until there are none left? Will you have that "humanitarian with a guillotine" feeling as you walk into a building that has security while my boys go to school and come home without any?

AR-15's- do not "assault." Assault is verb not a noun. Ask a disabled hunter, or a sportsman with Rheumatoid Arthritis why they use semi-automatics. I honestly feel like legislators need to understand and educate themselves about firearms before they create amendments like the ones attached to S.55. Those who would be affected by this are not criminals. These are good people, voters, who you told you would listen to, and be there voice. I have spoken to so many in our state, mostly native Vermonters, who are disappointed in all of you. They feel some of you have come to this state with the intention of making it like wherever you came from. Others, simply see you as wanting national attention and to be seen as following your political party's agenda. If you only speak for one subset of the state- who pray tell speaks for the rest of us?

Please do not exploit kids as your catalyst for discrimination against law abiding firearm owners. Despite the image anti gun supporters are portraying about us- we are actually an example of some of the most responsible citizens in our nation in regards to firearms. And we deserve a voice. Which one of you will speak for me and thousands like me?

Signed,

Donna Lauzon

mom, native, and proud supporter of 2A and Article 16

.....  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 11:16:39 AM

**To:** [tcorcoran@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tcorcoran@leg.state.vt.us); Mary Morrissey; [kmorris@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:kmorris@leg.state.vt.us); [rfields@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:rfields@leg.state.vt.us); [bcampion@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bcampion@leg.state.vt.us); Richard Sears

**Subject:** proposed gun legislation

Dear Tim, Mary, Kia, Racheal, Brian, Dick

I am opposed to all the new gun legislation that is being proposed with the exception of S.221 as originally drafted. I'm opposed to H.422 as seizure without due process and S.55 because of add-ons. The biggest reason I'm opposed to new gun legislation is I feel they are knee jerk reactions. None of the new legislation will, or would have, done anything to curb gun violence.

If all it takes is a new law, if it we're that easy, we would not have any drug, theft, homicide, domestic violence issues at all. Unfortunately criminals and persons of evil intent do not care about the law. After all, if one is willing to face a prison term, possible life sentence, death penalty or commit suicide while committing an illegal evil deed, more laws will not stop them. They will find a way and they will find a tool.

The proposed new legislation will only impact honest law abiding citizens who have not and will not do any harm in the first place. We live in Vermont, please do not turn it into New York or Massachusetts.

Sincerely  
Randall E. Bates  
Bennington

.....  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 12:32 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** No new firearms control

Dear Rep. Grad,

My name is Sarah Froebel. I am a 48-year old Registered Nurse and student from Franklin County, VT. I am a law-abiding citizen who enjoys the great freedoms that we have here in Vermont. I am also a rape survivor. I promised myself it will never happen again. I have gone about defending myself the right way. I have taken NRA courses. My firearms instructor is Darryl Montague – you may have heard of him – he was shot three times by his student, Veronica Lewis. I train. I grew up in a hunter’s household where guns were prevalent, and I was put in hunter safety when I was 10. I paint this picture to you of my life so that you can see that I, like many others, are normal everyday people who benefit from the traditions and laws we have in place currently. I am proud that this state is the safest in the nation. I am all for making laws that will prevent crime and protect my family. However, S.55 will in no way stop crime, while it WILL completely hinder my freedoms that tens of thousands of Vermonters also enjoy. This is nothing more than a solution in search for a problem. Banning higher capacity magazines, gun accessories, certain types of weapons, waiting periods, etc.; none of these restrictions will stop ANY criminal from choosing to commit a crime. It would be a shame to restrict my right to legally use these types of firearms and accessories with my family out of a reaction based solely on emotion and not based on reason or logic. I think it is horrible what happened in Florida but making a decision that will impact 99.99999999% of legal gun owners’ rights and freedoms will be tragic as well. I am ashamed and shocked that these amendments are being added to a bill that I already thought was unnecessary and overreaching. I ask you as my representative and voice in government that you will strongly oppose this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Froebel

.....  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 12:56 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** No new gun laws.

Good morning

Our country's citizens rights have never never been more under attack then they are right now. All over the country states are trying to strip citizens of there rights. Gun rights, a women's right to control her body, the right to marry who you please. WE have president that is calling news fake and challenging the right to free press. This is not the time to pick and choose what parts of the rights we have you like. Stand up for all our rights. If you can trample one you can trample them all. This is important. Vermont has been here for 230 years and will continue long after you leave your job. We have a history of preserving individual rights here. Voters will remember if you stood against these rights.

Thank you

Matt Marchessault

Kayla Samson

1992 Kellogg rd

St. Albans

---

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 3:09 PM

**Subject:** Our Rights are UNALIENABLE GOD GIVEN RIGHTS and are NOT Government issued, nor up for Government to Infringe

Dear Representatives

Any type of Gun Control Legislation is outside of your Constitutional Authorities and is a flagrant disregard to the Constitutions and to the UNALIENABLE GOD GIVEN RIGHTS of the people.

Our RIGHTS are not Government issued and we are not your subjects, our Rights are endowed upon us by our creator and we are Citizens and Governments are instituted among men to SECURE THESE RIGHTS and not infringe on them. If you so much as try to restrict our Rights, rewrite our writes, or infringe on them in anyway, then it is you who are to be held accountable. The people CREATED all levels of Government and YOU work for us.

The Centralized Government has NO DOMESTIC AUTHORITY over the States as the States stand Sovereign over the Centralized Government. The Centralized Government has been abusing their Constitutional LIMITED Authorities for quite sometime. The Centralized Government was created, BY THE PEOPLE to be the Collective Voice and the Collective Force in Foreign Issues only and not to dictate to the states. It is about time you follow your oaths to office and create laws as per Article VI IN PURSUANCE of the Constitution, as laws not made in pursuance of the

Constitution are indeed not laws.

## **GUN CONTROL IS NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT**

The FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS to the BILL OF RIGHTS are not Amendable. Where as the U.S. Constitution is a compact among the states defining the LIMITED AUTHOIRITIES of the New Centralized Government, the first Ten Amendments in the Bill of Rights define the Individual's UNALIENABLE, GOD GIVEN RIGHTS and was attached to the Constitution, two years after the Constitution was written as a Notice to all Branches of Governments that there rights are not up to Government control or opinion.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, **that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**--**That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, "**

"that they are endowed by their Creator with certain UNALIENABLE Rights,"

"That to SECURE THESE RIGHTS, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, "

### **U.S. Bill of RIGHTS**

#### **Amendment IX**

*"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."*

## **James Madison, House of Representatives**

8 June 1789 *Annals 1:439*

It has been objected also against a bill of rights, that, by enumerating particular exceptions to the grant of power, it would disparage those rights which were not placed in that enumeration; and it might follow by implication, that those rights which were not singled out, were intended to be assigned into the hands of the General Government, and were consequently insecure. This is one of the most plausible arguments I have ever heard urged against the admission of a bill of rights into this system; but, I conceive, that it may be guarded against. I have attempted it, as gentlemen may see by turning to the last clause of the fourth resolution [the Ninth Amendment].

" **U.S. Bill of RIGHTS *Amendment II***

*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the RIGHT of the people to keep and bear Arms, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED. "*

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF VERMONT**

### **CHAPTER I.**

## A DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

*Article 1. [All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery prohibited]*

That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and **defending life and liberty**, acquiring, possessing and **protecting property**, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety;

*"Article 16. [Right to bear arms; standing armies; military power subordinate to civil]*

*That **the people have a RIGHT to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State**--and as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power."*

### CHAPTER II.

#### PLAN OR FRAME OF GOVERNMENT DELEGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS

##### LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

##### § 6. [LEGISLATIVE POWERS]

*".....They may prepare bills and enact them into laws, redress grievances, grant charters of incorporation, subject to the provisions of section 69, constitute towns, boroughs, cities and counties; and they shall have all other powers necessary for the Legislature of a free and sovereign State; **but they shall have no power to add to, alter, abolish, or infringe any part of this Constitution.**"*

**"BUT THEY SHALL HAVE NO POWER TO ADD TO, ALTER, ABOLISH, OR INFRINGE ANY PART OF THIS CONSTITUTION."**

##### § 71. [DECLARATION OF RIGHTS NOT TO BE VIOLATED]

*The Declaration of the political Rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this State, is hereby declared to be part of the Constitution of this Commonwealth; **and ought not to be violated on any pretence whatsoever.***

Sincerely

Craig Averill  
Goshen, Vermont

.....  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 4:44 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** Please vote no on universal background check

Dear Ms Grad,

I am writing to request you vote no on S.55. Vermont does not need gun bans, magazine bans, waiting periods or any other New York style Michael Bloomberg pushed anti-gun laws. In addition please vote no on universal background checks. They are unenforceable and will not stop criminals from getting guns. A common sense and much better change would be to require juvenile criminal records and school expulsions along with any time someone goes to a program or facility for mental health issues added to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Adding this information to the NICS would actually prevent people like the Fairhaven student from getting guns at any age.

I also don't believe raising the age to buy a gun should be raised to 21. If raising the age to 21 to buy a gun makes sense because you believe younger people aren't mature enough to make responsible decisions then the age to vote should also be raised to 21.

Jeff Koonz

Middlesex

---

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 8:00 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** NO to bill S.55

Hello Ms. Grad,

I am a lifetime Vermonter. I've lived in this state my whole life (44 years) and have enjoyed the freedoms that this state has given me. Please vote against any bill that will put a restriction on mine or my kids gun rights. Vote no too bill S.55.

Thank you,

Steven Bird

---

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 9:12 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** S.55

Dear Representative Grad

Although I am not a constituent of your District, by virtue of your membership on the House Judiciary Committee and the fact that you are seeking information regarding S55 and your amendments to it, I wish to bring in front of you a perspective you may not have heard or considered.

I am a native Vermonter and have lived here all my life with the exception of time spent out of state during my 4-year military service. My wife and I make our home in Cambridge where we raised our family. We live at a home which happens to be the last house on a 2 ½ mile dead end dirt road.

About 5 years ago we were awakened by vehicle lights sweeping across our bedroom wall as someone pulled in our driveway at 3:30 in the morning. Given the geographical situation I described, you can imagine this was a very unusual and unsettling occurrence. I armed myself and proceeded to the door followed by my wife to determine what was going on.

By the time I reached the front door I heard a car door close, I looked out the window and saw an individual coming up the steps to my deck. I went outside to engage the individual and see what he wanted; was it someone in need of help, or someone out to harm myself or my family?

As I walked down the deck to talk to him he started trying to get in our second door. I engaged the man verbally with my firearm still pocketed but in my hand. I managed to maneuver him off my porch and onto the driveway. I still didn't know what his intentions were but when he looked at me and tried to go around me to get to the door I pushed him back into the driveway. At the same time I called over my shoulder to my wife who was standing with the front door cracked to call 911 and tell them that we had someone trying to get in our house and her husband had a weapon.

I will not burden you with the details of this incident except to recapitulate the most critical point; **Law Enforcement knew a gun was involved in this episode.**

After reading this I want to inform you that the VSP arrived at my residence approximately 21 minutes after the initial call. Bear in mind, this is in no way faulting the VSP nor casting aspersions on that organization, it is simply a fact that in many, many parts of this state an after-hours response is a long, long time.

What if this incident had escalated (my military training allowed me to control the situation without having to resort to violence)? What if there had been more than one individual? What if any of the numerous bad actors moving to this state to cash in on various criminal opportunities (the recent shooting of an innocent person in Burlington by a convicted felon comes to mind) had been intent on causing myself or my family harm?

How can you and your committee in good faith deem to justify what I can and can't own in the protection of my loved ones and myself? How can you, some of you from residences with minuscule police response time, set for me the number of rounds I may or may not need in a violent situation? Are you intimating that your knowledge of the millions of potential situations that could, or have, occurred, is so omniscient that you know better than I do regarding the weapons and number of rounds in a magazine (that you are trying to ban) that I might need to protect my family?

A final question, Is your family more valuable, more important, to society than mine?

Sincerely

Rod French

Cambridge, Vermont

.....  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 10:38 PM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** S. 55

Dear Representative Grad-

I am strongly **opposed** to S.55 including all of the LaLonde amendments, and universal background checks. I am also strongly **opposed** to H.675.

These bills are in direct violation of Article 16th of the Vermont Constitution. It is quite obvious to me that opportunist ideology is front and center rather than genuine attempts at securing schools and protecting children. As a mother of a young child in an isolated rural area which has experienced home invasions, I should be able to protect myself against a



criminal, not feel as if I am a criminal myself. Why should I, as a law-abiding citizen, be limited to protect myself with a smaller magazine? The 10-round magazine limitation would make a number of common hand guns used for self-protection illegal. So this leads me to my next question. How will this be enforced? It seems this is just a first step in the ultimate end game of gun registration and confiscation.

Criminals will always ignore and bypass gun laws. As a state we need to look at making our schools more secure. The majority of Vermont households have firearms and I truly believe it does act as a deterrent. I'm not necessarily for arming teachers but I do feel we should face the reality that schools are easy targets for those who wish to do harm, particularly those that announce they are 'gun free zones'. I would like to see tighter control for entry into schools. That seems to be the best first preventive step to keep our children safe. In my office building you had to be buzzed in to enter and also had to swipe a card to gain entry to secure areas. During my 13+ years of working for this employer we had a close call where a colleague's spouse had threatened to do harm at our office place. Unfortunately this man killed my friend and himself and I wonder what could have happened if he attempted to do this at my place of work.

Furthermore, a number of VT state office buildings do not have an 'open door' policy either, particularly our courts. A common sense investment is to better screen entry into our schools to make it much harder for someone who wishes to do harm.

In contrast, I do support S. 221, as written and passed out of the Senate. This is reasonable public safety legislation and provides the individual with due process. I do not support any gun control amendments being attached to S. 221.

I appreciate your consideration of my perspective.

Kind regards,

Allison Cassavechia  
Newark, Vermont

---

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:16 AM

**To:** Maxine Grad; Tom Burditt; Chip Conquest; Selene Colburn; Eileen Dickinson; Kimberly Jessup; Martin LaLonde; Kiah Morris; Barbara Rachelson; Gary Viens; Janssen Willhoit

**Subject:** Bill H-876

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I write today to ask that you deeply consider your actions on bill H-876, "An act relating to prohibiting bump-fire stocks for firearms".

I write this as a law enforcement officer, a firearm instructor, a firearm instructor trainer, and in general, a citizens who enjoys our 2nd Amendment.

"Bump" stocks are an accessory one may add to particular firearms to use the recoil of the firearm to assist with firearm at a slightly faster rate than simply pulling the trigger consciously and deliberately to continue firing. The scare tactics used by those opposed to these items are aimed at making one believe they mimic or imitate the function of fully-automatic weapons. This is an inaccuracy in that they actually don't come close to full-automatic fire. They perhaps, with training and practice, can achieve half the fire rate of an actual automatic weapon. If a shooter pulls the trigger for each shot, they generally fire at a rate of about 3-4 shots per second, while using a bump-fire stock they could achieve 7-8. An actual full-automatic weapon has a fire rate of approximately 13-15 shots per second.

With practice and effort, a shooter can actually learn to use his/her grip on the forestock (out on the barrel) and the recoil against their shoulder to come close to the rate of fire achieved by a bump stock!

So choosing to ban an object simply based on the perceived threat of it creating more havoc or damage is ludicrous. My further objection to this attempt is that where will it end? Other suggestions have been to ban barrel shrouds, certain magazines, adjustable stocks, etc.

Just because one does not understand or like something, doesn't mean it should be banned from use by those who do understand them. ***What is the purpose of proposing all these bans? Please respond, because I'd really like to know.*** What is the agenda of those wishing to impose their will against other law-abiding citizens?

I implore you to not vote for this bill. The banning of this stock will not have any impact on the current mass hysteria concerning mass shootings. It is a knee-jerk, feel-good reaction by people who don't understand firearms.

Thank you for your time.

Steve Jeffrey

St. Johnsbury

.....  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:48 AM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Subject:** Media comment: Gun owner groups say they are shut out of conversation

Rep. Grad,

We understand a group of gun rights organizations have written all of the Vermont legislators as well as the Governor's office in protest to how their calls and letters to lawmakers on gun control legislation are being handled. Further, they contend legislation is being pushed through committee without public input.

Do you have a comment or statement on this?

Below is a copy of the letter's allegations:

The first issue involves our constituent's ability to be in contact with their elected officials by email and telephone, which is conversely having the effect of denying legislators the ability to hear from their

constituents. Regarding calls, it appears that calls being made to the Sergeant At Arms have overwhelmed that office, such that individual messages are no longer being disseminated in favor of building and then disseminating "call log sheets" which is an unprecedented action. In talking to the Sergeant At Arms Office, we believe we understand that these "Call log sheets" are theoretically being disseminated to House Judiciary - but we have learned from some members of that committee that they are not seeing these "call log sheets". Regarding Email, we have been made aware that some emails from our constituents are apparently being directed to individual legislator's SPAM folders, when "SPAM Engines" are not being used by any of us for contacting Legislators.

As important, if not more so, is the fact that bills like S.6, in addition to the change of Age to purchase a firearm, ***never received any discussion in any Senate Committee***, effectively preventing any testimony on these aspects to that body. Beyond that, we note that S.6, in addition to the proposed change in age to purchase a firearm, the proposed ban on Semiautomatic Assault Rifles, the proposed ban on high-capacity magazines, the proposal to require safe storage of firearms when not in possession, and the proposal of a waiting period in S.55 ***ALL HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF A PUBLIC HEARING.***

In reviewing the House Judiciary schedule for last week, we further note that it was at one time proposed that, despite having a bundle of amendments to S.55 being added as of Tuesday the 13th; last week's scheduled reflected a possible Committee vote on passage for Thursday the 15th, with a definite vote on Friday the 14th - which meant that there was the expectation that this all could be discussed, carefully considered and deliberated in under 4 days. Even though the schedule was subsequently changed such that a final Committee vote now appears to be scheduled for [10 AM Wednesday the 21st](#), there is every appearance that this momentous piece of legislation will be rammed through House Judiciary in a little over a week with exceedingly limited public input.

Combined, we find these things troublesome and unexpected as a fair and balanced deliberative process that Vermonters expect from their elected representatives. The amendments being proposed are monumental, and if passed will result in a significant impact on Vermonters, particularly those Vermonters between the ages of 18-20. We therefore respectfully request that the House take the prudent action that is expected of a deliberative body, and allow for a Public Hearing that will allow Vermonters to speak to the issues at hand, and we suggest that this ***NOT*** be limited to only two hours. Any other course of action would be injurious to the law-making process that is to be expected from our Legislature, a process which should allow Legislators to hear directly from Vermonters.

Thanks,

Chris

Chris Eger  
Guns.com

---

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:16 AM

**To:** Maxine Grad

**Cc:** Mitzi Johnson

**Subject:** Opposed to any new gun laws.. public hearing

Speaker Mitzi Johnson and Representative Maxine Grad

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05663

March 20, 2018

RE: Request for Public Hearing on S.55

Dear House Speaker Johnson and House Judiciary Chair Grad -

The first issue involves our constituent's ability to be in contact with their elected officials by email and telephone, which is conversely having the effect of denying legislators the ability to hear from their constituents. Regarding calls, it appears that calls being made to the Sergeant At Arms have overwhelmed that office, such that individual messages are no longer being disseminated in favor of building and then disseminating "call log sheets" which is an unprecedented action. In talking to the Sergeant At Arms Office, we believe we understand that these "Call log sheets" are theoretically being disseminated to House Judiciary - but we have learned from some members of that committee that they are not seeing these "call log sheets". Regarding Email, we have been made aware that some emails from our constituents are apparently being directed to individual legislator's SPAM folders, when "SPAM Engines" are not being used by any of us for contacting Legislators.

As important, if not more so, is the fact that bills like S.6, in addition to the change of Age to purchase a firearm, never received any discussion in any Senate Committee, effectively preventing any testimony on these aspects to that body. Beyond that, we note that S.6, in addition to the proposed change in age to purchase a firearm, the proposed ban on Semiautomatic Assault Rifles, the proposed ban on high-capacity magazines, the proposal to require safe storage of firearms when not in possession, and the proposal of a waiting period in S.55 ALL HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF A PUBLIC HEARING.

In reviewing the House Judiciary schedule for last week, we further note that it was at one time proposed that, despite having a bundle of amendments to S.55 being added as of Tuesday the 13th; last week's schedule reflected a possible Committee vote on passage for Thursday the 15th, with a definite vote on Friday the 14th - which meant that there was the expectation that this all could be discussed, carefully considered and deliberated in under 4 days. Even though the schedule was subsequently changed such that a final Committee vote now appears to be scheduled for 10 AM Wednesday the 21st, there is every appearance that this momentous piece of legislation will be rammed through House Judiciary in a little over a week with exceedingly limited public input.

Combined, we find these things troublesome and unexpected as a fair and balanced deliberative process that Vermonters expect from their elected representatives. The amendments being proposed are monumental, and if passed will result in a significant impact on Vermonters, particularly those Vermonters between the ages of 18-20. We therefore respectfully request that the House take the prudent action that is expected of a deliberative body, and allow for a Public Hearing that will allow Vermonters to speak to the issues at hand, and we suggest that this NOT be limited to only two hours. Any other course of action would be injurious to the law-making process that is to be expected from our Legislature, a process which should allow Legislators to hear directly from Vermonters.

Signed:

Richard Ley

Clarendon, VT

---

My name is Ben Broe and I am resident of Burlington VT. I ask you to vote NO to S.55, as UBC's, prohibiting sales to those under 21, or any of the other proposed amendments will do nothing to prevent mass shootings. All this bill does is burden the law abiding gun owner and violate a class of adult's Article 16 constitutional rights. Proposed items that will possibly prevent a future incident are S.221, as passed by the Senate, and encouraging a see something say something mentality (which is proven to work from the Fair Haven incident here in VT)

Please review the below data that I have researched,

Thank you

Ben Broe

Burlington VT

802-760-7804

The following charts and data are summarized from raw data collected by Mother Jones on all mass shootings in the United States from 1982 until 2018. These are based on the federal definition of a mass shooting being 3 or more fatalities (4 or more pre 2013). Here is a link to the data:

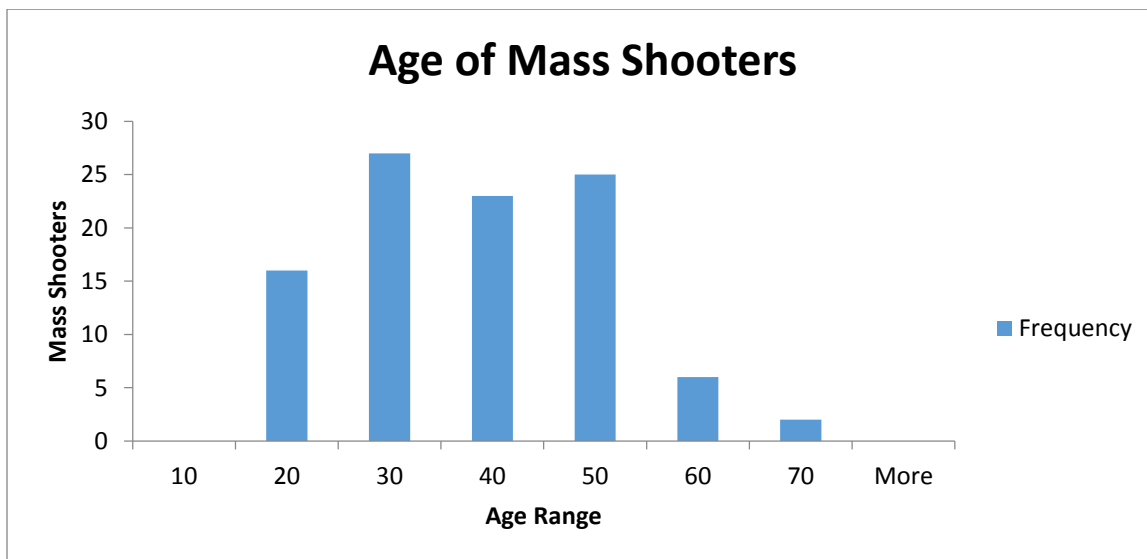
<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/12/mass-shootings-mother-jones-full-data/>

**S.55 with respect to prohibiting those under 21 from purchasing a firearm:**

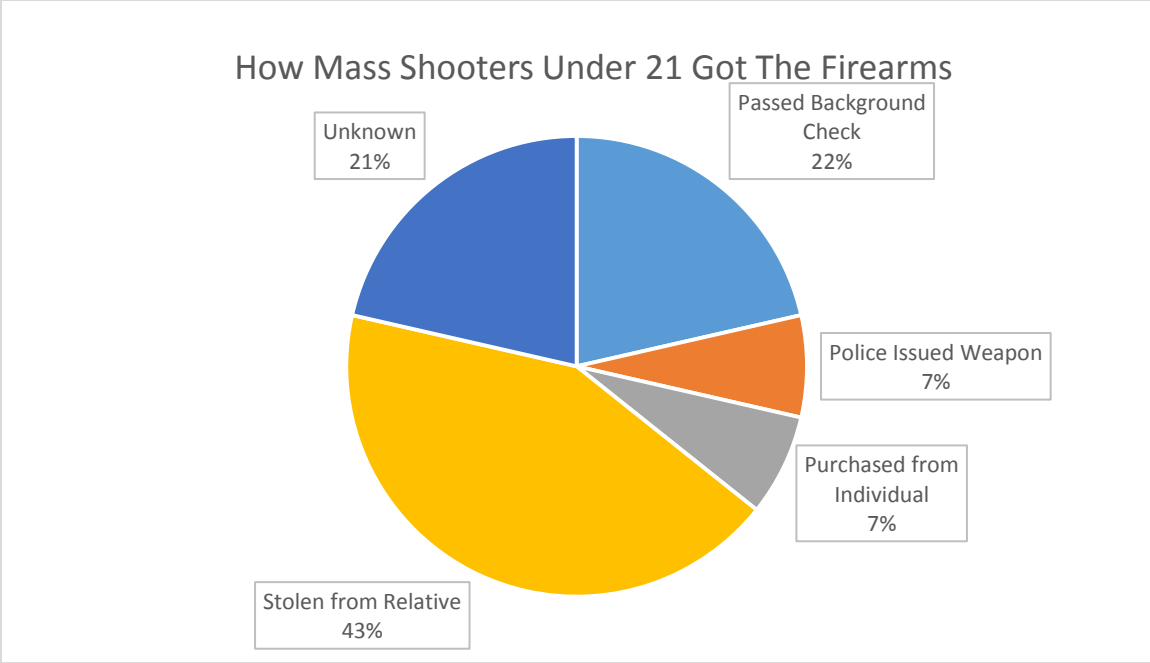
S.55 is imposing a significant, unequal and impermissible burden on the right to bear arms for the defense of one's self as guaranteed by Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution for an ENTIRE class of adults (those who have reached the state imposed age of majority). This class of adult is historically less responsible for mass shootings than those in their 30's, 40's, or 50's. This class of adult, when involved historically in mass shootings has demonstrated that they steal firearms from relatives in most instances, which S.55 will do nothing to prevent.

Here is the data:

The average age of a mass shooter is 34 years old. The group under 21 years of age is far less than those groups in their 30's, 40's, or 50's. In fact only 15 mass shooters have been under the age of 21.



If we examine how these 15 mass shooters under 21 got their firearms we find that the a large portion , 43% of them , stole the firearms from a relative.

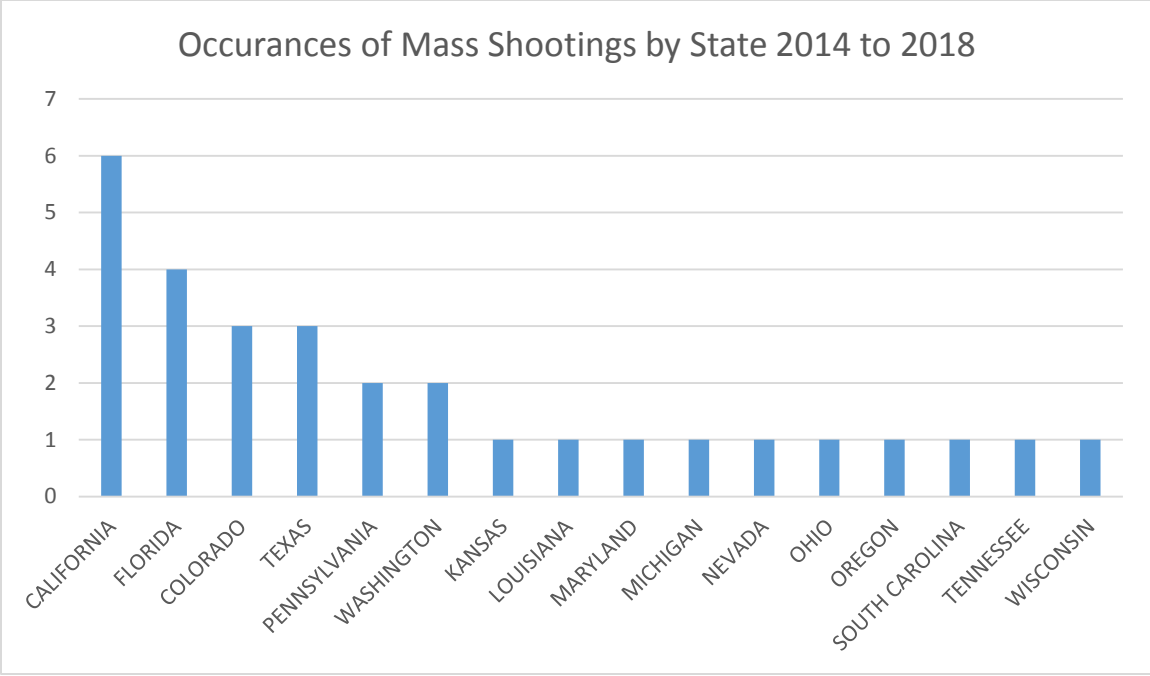


**S.55 with respect to Universal Background Checks:**

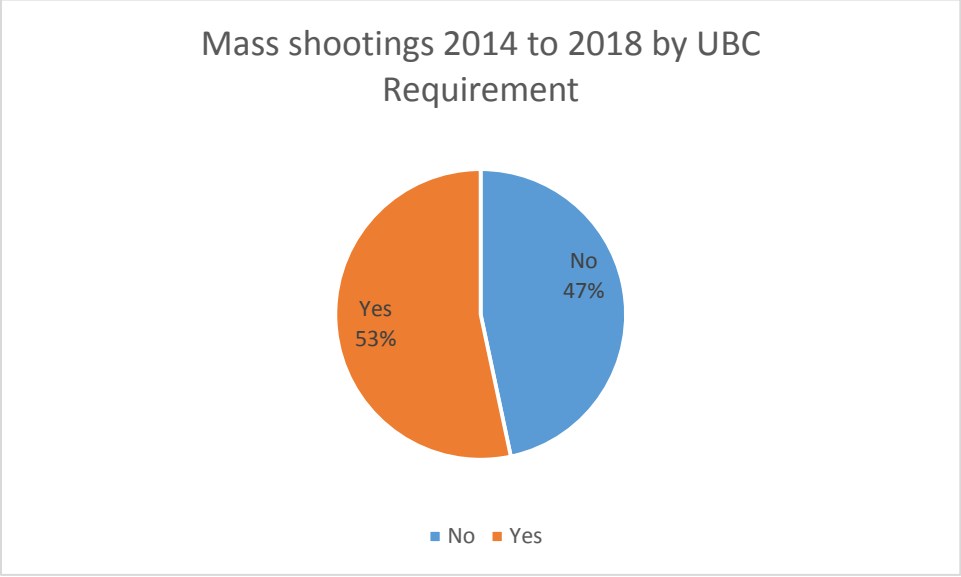
Since 2014 mass shootings have occurred more in states with UBC laws, than those without. In states with UBC laws the shooter was less apt to obtain the firearm with a background check than the shooters in states without UBC laws.

Here is the data:

Occurrences of mass shootings by state 2014 to 2018:



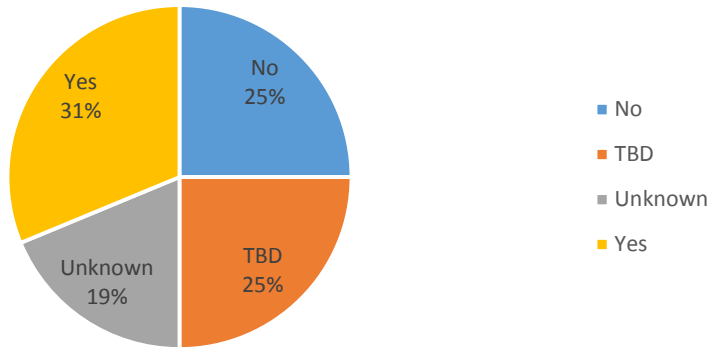
Grouped by if the state has a UBC law:



For those states that have a UBC law was the firearm obtained with a background check:

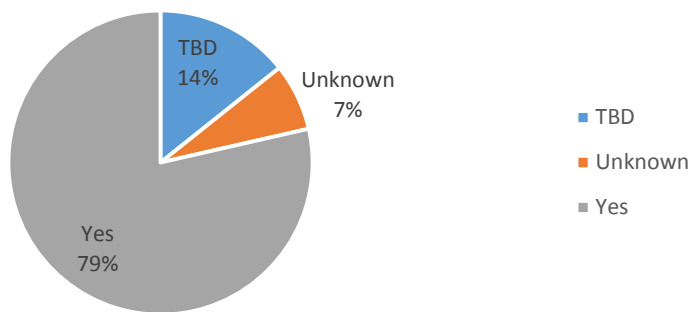


### Was Firearm Obtained with Background Check in States With UBC's?



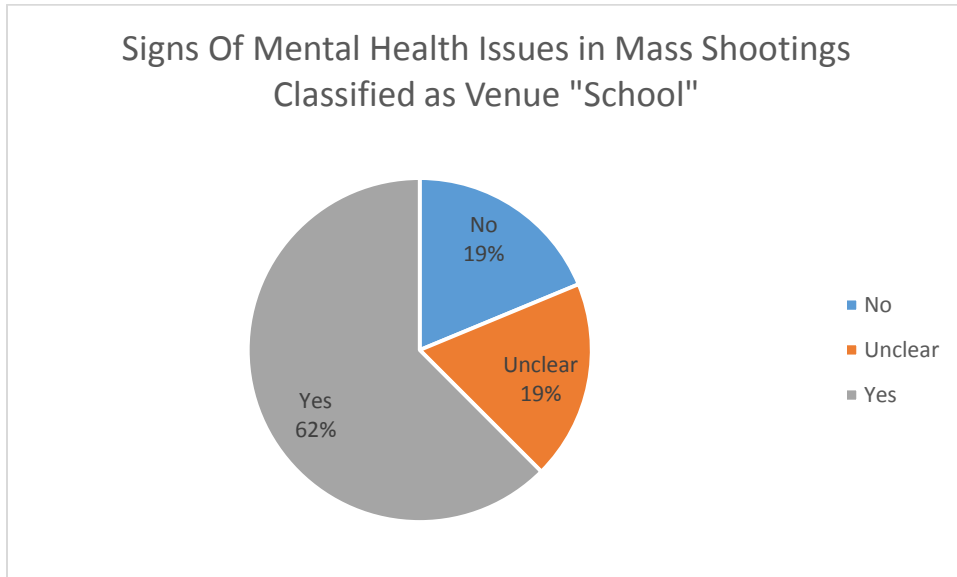
For those states that do not have a UBC law, was the firearm obtained through a background check?

### Was Firearm Obtained with a background check in States Without UBC's?

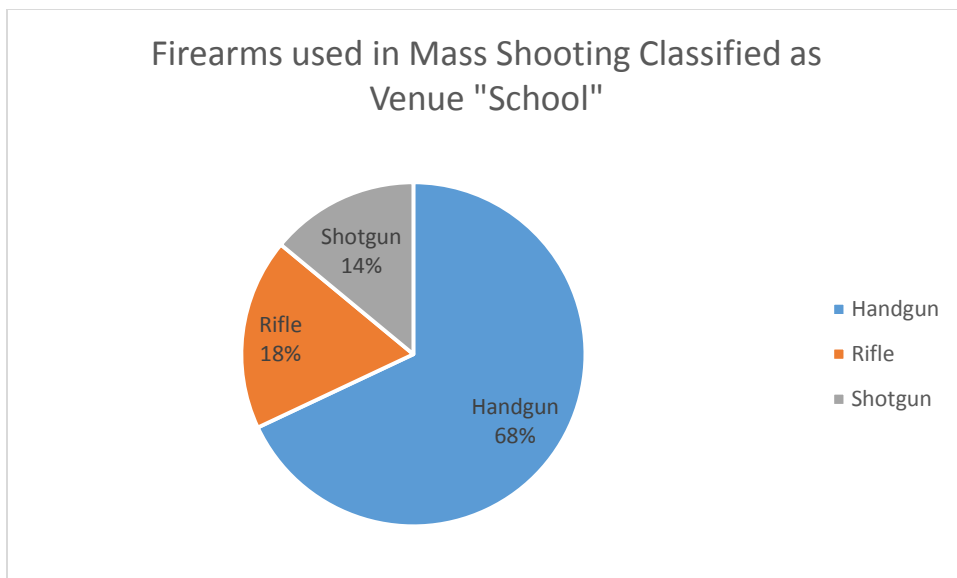


**General Data on Mass Shootings Classified as the Venue being "School" 1982 to 2018. There have been 16 events classified as School mass shootings.**

Overwhelmingly there were prior signs of mental issues with the shooters.



I tallied up all Firearms that were used in these 16 events and this is the makeup. The rifle group, which would include some modern sporting rifles (AR15 type), is dwarfed by handguns, but is the target of gun control legislation.



This is a previous letter that I sent to you on the constitutionality of prohibiting purchases to those under 21 years of age. I see that it never got recorded in your documents, so I am attaching it here again.

I have extensively researched Sec.7.13V.S.A.§4020 and believe it to be facially unconstitutional under Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution. Sec.7.13V.S.A.§4020 prohibits the sale of ALL firearms of common use to those adult, law abiding citizens under the age of 21. This imposes a significant, unequal and impermissible burden on the right to bear arms for the defense of one's self as guaranteed by Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution for an ENTIRE class of adult (those who have reached the age of majority), law abiding citizens. The significant, unequal, and impermissible burden being the inability to purchase a firearm in effect is such an infringement on the ability to bear arms that the statute would be unconstitutional.

#### SUPPORTING DATA:

We find in Vermont Supreme Court case 154 A. 695 (Vt. 1931), *Luella Rafus v. D. K. Daley* that the age of majority is set by the Legislature within the constitutional limit of 21.

- 1) [The constitution is not a grant of power to the Legislature, but it is a limitation of its general powers.](#) *Thorpe v Rutland B.R. Co.*, 27 Vt. 140, 62 A.D. 625. The Legislature's power is practically absolute, except for constitutional limitations. *City of Burlington v. Central Vermont Railway Co.*, 82 Vt. 5, 9, 71 A. 826; *Town of Bennington v. Park*, 50 Vt. 178, 191; *Thorpe v. Rutland B.R. Co.*, *supra*. Subject to constitutional restraints, the state legislatures have been compared to the British Parliament whose, "power and jurisdiction," according to Lord Coke, "is transcendent and absolute." *Thorpe v. Rutland B.R. Co.*, 27 Vt. 140, 142, 143, 62 A.D. 625.
- 2) These fundamental and oft-quoted principles of law are applicable and controlling here, and we hold that the Legislature has the power to fix the period of majority at any age within the constitutional limitation of twenty-one years. The constitutional amendment and the statute here being considered are not in conflict, and so the latter was not repealed by the former. The constitutional provision prohibits action by the Legislature beyond the limitation imposed, but the statute is within that limitation and is not affected thereby.

We find in Vermont Statute 1 V.S.A. § 173 that the legislature has set the age of majority at the age of 18

§ 173. Minors

Persons of the age of 18 years shall be considered of age and until they attain that age, shall be minors. Whenever referred to in the laws of this State, a person who is an adult or who has attained majority shall be a resident or nonresident person of 18 years of age or more. (Amended 1971, No. 90, § 1; 1971, No. 184 (Adj. Sess.), § 1, eff. March 29, 1972.)

We find from U.S. Supreme Court case 428 U.S. 52 (1976) that Constitutional rights do not mature and come into being magically only when one attains the state-defined age of majority. Minors, as well as adults, are protected by the Constitution and possess constitutional rights. See, e. g., Breed v. Jones, 421 U.S. 519 (1975); Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975); Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969); In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967).

Thus meaning that minors and adults have constitutional rights, with the state defined age of majority being the maximum age that a person obtains full legal rights and responsibilities.

.....  
I am writing the House Judiciary Committee to express my opposition to S.55. I also oppose a ban on semi-automatic firearms, standard capacity magazines, and mandated locked firearm storage. This bill and amendments will mostly affect law abiding citizens who do not threaten anyone and have little effect on criminals who won't obey the law anyway. Vermont is one of the safest states when it comes to firearm ownership and this law is not needed.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opposition on this matter.

John Lavelly  
6742 Berkshire Center Rd.  
East Berkshire, VT 05447  
.....

This bill is completely wrong for Vermont. For anywhere in the country for that matter. People need to realize that the guns are not the problem, people are the problem. we don't blame cars for accidents, pencils and pens for mistakes, spoons for the country's obesity problem, but someone gets shot and the gun is to blame? There is no sense to this common or other wise. Our crime rate in Vermont is so small because most of us

have guns. Criminals don't want to break into a house if they think they might be shot. I am a hunter, my whole family hunts and almost everyone I know hunts. The people purposing this bill state their not after hunters, but they most certainly are. The only people affected by this bill or any other bill are the law abiding gun owners. Please tell our legislators this bill and any other gun bill is detrimental to the law abiding citizens of Vermont. Thank You, Dan Hadwen

---

I am writing to you on the recent Vt. legislation S-55 in regards to the gun control issue that has been in the news as of recent. Our state has sufficient gun control laws that are more than adequate - as a matter of fact they are some of the most safe laws of any state among the 50 states. Why we need to have more of them is beyond me. You can have all the controls you want and as I'm sure you're aware this will not prevent the " crazies " from obtaining them illegally and going around and shooting innocent people. I am opposed to S-55 and want to voice my concerns and opinion that this ban should NOT receive a favorable vote in the near future. Please add my name to the growing list of honest, legal gun owners in this state and let's stop both state and federal legislators that are out of control with the gun issues in this country. If we were to make it mandatory to issue guns to every person in this country over the age of 12 years old seems to me that would be the best deterrent of all. Thank you for your time.

Dan Beauregard

Franklin, Vt.

---

My position on S.55 is No.

As was stated in a recent letter to the Vermont Legislature from the Chittenden County Fraternal Order of Police, I suggest looking at "*issues such as mental health, drugs and the proper enforcement of the laws already on the books*"(Padric Hartnett).

Furthermore, I am downright baffled about how some of the recent amendments could be enforced. For example, grandfather clauses for prior ownership/possession of semi automatic rifles, and magazines. If we cannot, or are not enforcing current laws, creating additional loopholes doesn't make sense.

Brent Francis

Hinesburg, Vermont

---

I'm a Shaftsbury Vermont Resident and my address is:

1206 Trumbull Hill Road

Shaftsbury, Vermont 05262

Please advise the House Judiciary Committee that I would like my voice heard in regards to a **NO** vote for S.55 & S.221 & H.675.

Thanks you very much,

Eric Broderson

---

Members House Judiciary Committee:

Gun owners, hunters, sportsmen and gun owners in general were willing to give in to the terms of S-55 and support the bill as passed by the Senate. Now S-55 as drastically changed cannot be supported. It is a shame that those who simply want strict gun control laws use a tragedy to further their personal agenda.

A 10 day waiting period would effectively kill gun shows in the state.

- Changing the age to 21 to purchase a firearm would violate 18, 19, and 20 year old's 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights. At age 18 a person is an adult in Vermont and adults who can legally own a firearm have 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. See, V.S.A. § 173. "Persons of the age of 18 years shall be considered of age and until they attain that age, shall be minors. Whenever referred to in the laws of this State, a person who is an adult or who has attained majority shall be a resident or nonresident person of 18 years of age or more." (Amended 1971, No. 90, § 1; 1971, No. 184 (Adj. Sess.), § 1, eff. March 29, 1972.)

Vermont and Wyoming are the safest states in the Union to live in. We no new gun control laws. Rational minds will vote no to S-55 as now presented.

Some disturbing facts all Vermont legislators should be addressing;

Vermont ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the United States for total tax burden. New Hampshire ranks 46<sup>th</sup>.

Vermont ranks 4<sup>th</sup> highest for home heating oil and 10<sup>th</sup> highest for total energy costs.

Vermont has the highest public school "per pupil cost" and the smallest class size per teacher.

Rather than addressing these severe problems that affect all Vermonters, each year something new is taxed, a tax is increased, or both are done. In addition, the regulatory process in general puts an undue burden on individuals and business alike.

Respectfully,

Merle Van Gieson

3539 West Hill Road

Enosburg, VT 05450

1-802-326- 4536 (We live in Montgomery, mail is through the Enosburg Post Office)

.....  
To the clerk of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Louis Andreotta, Marlboro, VT. I am currently the Emergency Management Director for Marlboro. I spent 4 1/2 yrs in Southeast Asia. I was on the ground in Somalia before the Marines. I was in a war zone and I was in two countries that were going through military coups/regime changes. I have worked with the Dept of Defense, DARPA, NOAA, I have worked in Security, and I am currently a passive member of the FBI's Infragard program.

My eldest son spent five years with the Army and included a tour in Afghanistan as an interpreter.

I was sixteen when I first swore to protect the US Constitution and that includes the Bill of Rights.

Vermont is the safest state in the nation because of our culture, and our participation in our Armed forces. It is estimated that 35% of Vermonters serve in the US Armed Forces at any one time. It is estimated that 75% of the homes in Vermont have firearms for hunting and self defense. We all know how to shoot, we all know about gun safety, and we all teach our children how to shoot!

What you are doing with S.55, S.221, and H.675 is falling into a mess that works to the NRA's contention that the Democratic Party wants to outlaw our firearms and confiscate our firearms. Some of the firearms that I currently own have belonged to past generations. Some of these firearms that I own were used by men in uniform, icons, and hero's to me and my generation.

The legislation that you are trying to pass violates your oath of office to protect the Vermont Constitution and the US Constitution. The Safest State in the Union doesn't need this legislation!!

Do NOT pass S.55, S.221, and H.675! Do NOT let these items go to the floor! Hold a public hearing on S.55 before you vote. Let the legislature hear my words on others like me who were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation and our State.

Do NOT pass S.55, S.221, and H.675! Do NOT take away our gun rights!

Signed Louis M. and Barbara A. Andreotta, Marlboro

.....  
I urge this committee to oppose passage of S. 55. This is a BAD BILL which seeks to uproot over \*two centuries\* of laissez-faire Vermont gun ownership \*and without a public hearing!!!!\*

This is an outrage on numerous levels.

Please oppose S. 55

Most Sincerely,

Alex Knight, Marlboro

.....

Dear Legislators,

As your constituent and law abiding citizen I strongly urge you to say no to all the new gun bills being rushed through committees without any public debate, no due process, foremost these bills are unconstitutional. No to S.55. Lets work together to find common sense approaches to secure our schools and saving our kids and teachers, limit access to buildings, metal detection, uniformed trained personal present, daily random police visits, train our honorable veteran's for this task. Why are you legislators not putting more time and effort into strengthening current law? Many shootings are committed by felons still walking around freely, WITH GUNS, and you think by attacking law abiding citizens is going to stop that activity? These are the topics we should be discussing instead of wasting time and more lives with your obsessive gun control agenda which will stop none of this violence, senseless. We all want to see an end to these horrific tragedies.

Respectfully,

Robert Dindo

---

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The elements included in S55 continue to be objectionable to law abiding Vermonters. Please vote No on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Paul DeCausemacker

Colchester

---

As a sportsman, gun owner and registered voter in the State of Vermont, please pass on I do NOT support any new gun legislation and I say NO to S.55

Please pass on my NO to S.55 to all.

Respectfully,

Michael J Southworth

---

Dear House Judiciary Member,

I write in strong **opposition** to **S. 55** and all of the **Lalonde amendments**, including, a ban on '**High Capacity Magazines**', and '**Universal Background Checks**'. I also **oppose**H.675.

However, I do **support** **S.221** as passed by the Senate. This bill received 30-0 support in the Senate after careful, thoughtful, deliberation.

Having a beautiful baby daughter, I am very concerned about school safety. Yet, I don't think the Vermont NEA, and other gun control pushers are serious about finding real solutions to the school safety problem. I find the tactics of this 'school safety' movement to be quite offensive. Every child



protester, teacher, principle, or others quoted in the media advocating school safety only talk about gun control. The State and the school systems don't seem to want to acknowledge and take responsibility that the schools are soft targets, advertised as '**Gun Free Zones**'.

Instead of all sides coming together and having an open and honest debate using facts, logic, reason, and data analysis to find real security solutions, the immediate call for gun control and stripping individuals of Constitutional rights shows what this 'school safety' movement is all about. Again and again, the gun control advocates make it into a partisan, left vs. right issue. They divide Vermonters, make politics divisive, and distract the legislature from working on real problems our State has, like affordability. This should not be a partisan issue. It is a Constitutional issue. **Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution** is clearly written and simple, Vermonters have a right to bear arms and defend themselves. Lawmakers take an oath not to harm the Vermont Constitution, and I expect them to keep their oath!

And now, it looks as if the children of Vermont are being used and encouraged to take the lead on gun control from **Gun Sense Vermont**, the Vt NEA, and sympathetic lawmakers. I take great offense at the fact that **Gun Sense Vermont**, a group with paid lobbyists, funded by out-of-state **Michael Bloomberg** money, which has been massively outnumbered at multiple public hearings previous is still given legitimacy by our legislature. The grassroots membership organizations defending the Constitutional rights of Vermonters against the artificial turf movement of **Bloomberg**, are represented at the Statehouse by volunteer advocates, not lobbyists paid from out-of-state.

Our household pays a lot of taxes every year towards the education of children not our own. Yet, we see children who aren't old enough to vote, demanding that my rights, protected by the Vermont Constitution, be terminated. It seems to fit the trend of young Americans being taught to increasingly feel entitled to whatever they want if only they protest. 'Free' education comes to mind. They seem to be taught not to care about the rights of fellow citizens they don't identify with. Maybe they have been misled by our politicians, educators, and general adult population who speak of the great democracy we have in this country, seemingly ignorant that we are supposed to be a Constitutional Republic instead. I have heard some of the children leaders of school protests speak on the radio, along with a high school principle. I have heard teachers, and other gun control advocates call in to radio shows. The disinformation being spread by the people I heard is either intentional propaganda, or, exposes their ignorance of these tools(firearms) they are calling to restrict. I have not heard legitimate ideas from these advocates for how we can make the schools safer. They just repeat tired talking points of misinformation. They talk of 'automatic' weapons, and 'weapons of war', implying that these firearms are machine guns and our military uses them in combat. I hope our military uses more than semi-automatic rifles. How can they call for restrictions on firearms, magazines, etc.(private property of individuals), if they are not even knowledgeable about these items? That is arrogant and offensive!

I am willing to guess that the children don't learn too much about the U.S. or Vermont Constitutions in school, they don't learn that the Constitutions protect certain individual rights that cannot be overturned by a simple majority. And the children are being encouraged by parents, school administrators, and others who also are either ignorant of the Constitutions, or, who don't think they matter. Instead, these schools should be teaching the children that their country, and State of Vermont,

were established as Constitutional Republics, and not pure democracies(mob rule). They should be having the children study the U.S. Supreme Court decisions regarding the Second Amendment, such as the Heller case. They should get educated first, before they organize their mob. They should learn that if they think it is okay to take the Second Amendment rights of others away, that in the future, an opposing majority may want to take their First Amendment rights away, for example. With 'mob rule' it can go either way. I was in high school in the early-mid 1990's, and was thinking back to how my fellow students and I were then. I compare that to how I am now, how much I have learned, experienced, and matured, since then. My grandfather was a Korean War veteran, a life NRA member who lived in Connecticut his whole life, and had a nice gun collection. I can't imagine being a child and protesting to take the Second Amendment away from Gramps. These reflections make it obvious to me how ridiculous it is that children are protesting in favor of violating the Vermont and U.S. Constitutions, and eliminating the protected rights of voting adult citizens. It makes me think it might be better to raise the age to vote, instead of raising the age to purchase a firearm. I do support the children to exercise their First Amendment rights to speech, however, they need to become educated about the issues, hear opposing viewpoints, debate the issues intelligently, and work to find genuine solutions to make all of us safer, and do it in a professional manner that respects the adults who pay for their schooling.

I read in the press that the **Lalonde amendment** for '**assault rifle**' ban was removed from **S.55** because it is very difficult to define an '**assault rifle**' based on certain features. I am vehemently **opposed** to defining '**High Capacity Magazines**' and restricting them as well. Many of the popular and best selling handguns sold at Vermont retailers come with a standard magazine that exceeds 10 rounds. A common shotgun can hold about 6 rounds, but if you have seen shotgun shells of buckshot, you can imagine the damage that could do. How many 'rounds' of buckshot come out of each shell? Lots. The recent bombings in Austin, Texas reminded me of some wisdom a veteran friend once told me. His position was that if guns were banned, we would see worse attacks, worse massacres, and worse carnage, from primitive homemade bombs and weapons using shrapnel, etc. How will we regulate/ban that? It's already illegal. Criminals don't obey laws.

Living in a very rural area with no police close by, my wife and I are the first line of defense for ourselves, our baby daughter, and our property. Second line of defense is our good neighbors. Everybody around here has either been broken into, had it attempted, or knows someone nearby that it did happen to. Be assured, we are glad that '**High Capacity Magazines**' are available for both rifles and handguns. How many bullets is my family worth to me? You can't count them. How many bullets is your life or family worth to you? Probably the same answer.

Considering Article 16<sup>th</sup> of the Vermont Constitution, I don't know how any legislator, or reasonable adult thinks they can define what reasonable self defense should be and how many bullets(chances) someone is allowed to defend themselves with. It is comforting to know that so many good people in our community are armed, professionals, town officials, teachers, etc. We feel it definitely makes our town more secure in case of an emergency. I do not wish to restrict the ability of these good people to defend their families and our community if necessary. The gun control advocates should be thankful there are good guys armed in their own communities. Police can't be everywhere, some towns have cut their police force. A firearm can be an equalizing force that allows a weaker person to defend against a

stronger attacker. These proposed restrictions only hinder the ability of law abiding Vermonters to defend themselves. Places with the strictest gun control policies, like Chicago and New York City, have the highest rates of violent crime and gun violence. You can't blame the guns there, they were illegally obtained and used.

Article 16<sup>th</sup> of the Vermont Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms. Therefore, '**Universal Background Checks**' are in violation of the Vermont Constitution. This article gives Vermonters the right, no Federal government jurisdiction required. Vermonters then, should not be subject to a Federal background check through a Federal Firearms License(FFL) holder. To uphold Article 16<sup>th</sup>, law abiding Vermonters must have access to private sales of firearms between Vermont residents. My firearms are my private property, another tool in the toolbox. The State should respect my right, protected by the Vermont Constitution, to commerce with my private property without additional fees(taxes), which are only meant to discourage Vermonters from exercising these inherent rights.

It is an outrage, and disheartening, that unprofessional political tactics in the Senate were used, rules suspended, to bypass the traditional committee system of Vermont government, taking such a critical issue and amending it onto an unrelated bill, just so it could be rammed through without committee approval. '**Universal Background Checks**', pushed by **Gun Sense Vermont**, has had its hearings. Gun Sense was massively outnumbered each time. This legislation did not make it out of Senate Judiciary because it is UNCONSTITUTIONAL, and criminals will not go through a background check. This will only harm law abiding citizens who do not want to break the law. I appreciate the good work that Senate Judiciary has done multiple times already looking at '**Universal Background Checks**'. Why are the results of their previous work on this issue not respected and accepted? Why do the legislators advocating '**Universal Background Checks**' in Vermont feel the need to resort to Washington D.C. style politics? Makes me wonder how much money **Bloomberg's Gun Sense** is contributing to them. When we see underhanded maneuvers like this, it makes me not trust the gun control advocates at all. I do not believe they will stop with **S.55**. It will be more and more gun control every session, until you finally get firearm registration.

**NO TO S.55. NO WAY, NO HOW!**

**NO TO H.422. NO TO H.675.**

**NO NEW GUN CONTROL!**

Respectfully,

Marc Pavlick  
Newark, Vermont

.....

In regards to bill S.55, I continue to read about changes to it and I cannot help but shake my head. The entire bill should be thrown out. Vermont has some the lowest crime rates in the country, yet we also have some of the most lenient gun laws. These statistics are proven. Especially troubling is Martin Lalonde's proposal to ban

magazines with a capacity greater than 10 rounds. It will do nothing to lessen the possibility of a mass shooting in any way, but rather it will take away my (and every other responsible gun owner in VT) ability to defend myself against a heavily armed attacker. While this may be unlikely to ever occur, I want to take no chances. Take a look at the Parkland shooter, he used only "standard" capacity 10 round magazines to inflict such damage. Ultimately, had he not had a firearm, he would have found an alternate means to carry out his harmful intentions. The problem that needs addressing is the failure to hold those responsible for such crimes accountable. When a drunk driver hits and kills another person, they are immediately considered at fault...not the car or the alcohol, but the person driving. The person handling the gun is responsible for the actions of the gun, not the other way around. Please understand that myself along with every other responsible gun owner are on the same page and we all intend to stand up for our Second Amendment rights. This bill must be taken off the table.

Best regards,

A very concerned, yet very responsible gun owner

Nate King

---

