Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON BILLS RELATED TO GUN CONTROL

From: George A. Thomson, MSG USA (RET) Re: S.55, S.6, S.221, and H.422, Date: 22 MARCH 2018

I am writing again to express my opinion on several bills S.6, S.221, H.422, and now S-55 which have been discussed over the past several weeks/months in both chambers. Some of you may have already received a memo similar to this one, but they may have gone to junk or spam folders.

Vermont is annually one of the safest states in the country and no additional gun control measures are required. There are ample laws on the subject now at both the state and federal level. What is required is people control. The inclusion of individuals identified with severe mental illness, which may be a danger to others or themselves into NICS the same as those with felony convictions or on a watch list, **until cleared by proper medical/psychological authority.**

There is also a point I would like to make before starting discussion on the various bills. The primary point of contention in "gun control" is usually the AR-15 (.223 cal. – 5.56mm) rifle, which is in no way an assault weapon as it is mislabeled by the media and those who don't know better because of the media and loud mouth liberal minded people who will say anything to convince folks they are knowledgeable and have "the fix to gun violence". AR does not stand for Assault Rifle, it stands for Armalite Rifle, the company who started in the early 1950's with the AR-1. Also never mentioned is there are 5 round magazines (which I have 4 of as well as some 30 round clips). The military version M16/M4 family of 5.56mm is a defensive weapon.

I will now provide some background on myself. I write not only as a hunter, and owner of numerous firearms, (yes one is an AR-15) I also write as a husband, father, grandfather, registered voter, U. S. army retired, former funeral director, emergency ambulance operator, **and a former police officer** (patrol commander) who has responded to most all types of criminal and civil matters. I do however thank God that I never had to respond to a school or mass shooting. In 1957, I started target shooting; and received my first rifle for Christmas in 1959 and have been a hunter since 1960. Not including personal experience, **I have 42 years of professional training with firearms between the army and law enforcement.**

Now for the three gun control bills; as far as required mandatory background checks (S-6) on private firearm transfers, current law already requires background checks for all dealer transfers, but this bill could, for example, impact those who wish to will firearms or sell firearms to family and friends. It would do nothing to
stop criminals from acquiring guns as the sponsors contend. If an individual knowingly makes a private

firearms sale to a felon then that individual should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. **I intend to leave my firearms to my adult children and adult grandchildren, two of which belonged to their great**
grandfather, and there are no if's and's or but's about it. As far a private sale between strangers' I certainly would have no problem with a background check of the buyer at the buyer's expense if any payment is required

As far as S-221 goes, it is just too broad and too vague for consideration. There are many, many conflicts with both the U. S. and Vermont Constitutions.(It should be noted that provisions of the second amendment were put in place as a means of the citizens from an out of control government) This is no more than a complicated dance to avoid due process. When a weapon is utilized in the commission of a crime, it is seized as evidence until final disposition of the case. If an assailant (either male or female) is as much of a danger as described in the S. 221 proposal it is much more prudent to PC or arrest the individual and the SA to petition the court for a court ordered evaluation. I can however state from experience that the most dangerous place to be when responding to a home based domestic is in the kitchen. There are many more dangerous weapons in a kitchen than the gun cabinet. Another problem with domestic complaints is when a female has a TRO on a boyfriend, husband, etc. and then after several days/weeks invites the person home with her; at some point in time thereafter, she will call the police to remove whomever from her residence as she has a restraining order. Upon arrival we then learn that not only is there no problem, but the individual was an invited guest. The complainant had violated their requested and issued TRO, no police action initiated in these cases. Also the Lautenberg Amendment has protections that cover domestic violence as well, **whether the complaint is true or not**.

The most dangerous bill on the agenda right now is S.55; and made more so by the introduction of an amendment by Rep. Martin LaLonde (D) South Burlington. This amendment is no more than a copy of the disastrous NY SAFE Act **which includes a 10 day waiting period.** This bill and amendment would ban just about every popular semiautomatic firearm and standard capacity magazine on the market. There is no other word than ignorant for a proposal such as this.

I have followed the wording changes in these bills and notice they started **out about all dangerous weapons** but changed to **just firearms,** I have also read the article "what all conservatives should read".

Bottom line no need for additional "gun control laws"; some existing laws could be tweaked somewhat such as:

- As stated above a background check involving a private sale to a stranger at the strangers expense if any.
- Restrict the sale of higher capacity clips to persons 21 or older such as with handguns.
- Addition of individuals with mental issues or on a watch list, which should **also include juvenile mental health problems and convictions into the NICS database until cleared.**
- Train and arm certain teachers/individuals in school buildings. **Make marksmanship programs available to include archery, firearms, or both.** Active or former members

of the military and police could assist or instruct these programs. The program would be similar to the PAL of years past.

- **Less "soft target" areas that these thugs target as they know they will have several minutes or more before first responders arrive on scene. Knowledge for strategy planning is gained through mass destruction violent video games played hours at a time day after day, not to mention the internet and movies.**
- **Continue with concealed carry, no permit required**. However if involved in a police encounter ie: MV stop must inform officer ASAP of the weapon. Failure to do so would result in a fine.
- **Bump stocks or anything making a firearm full auto is all-ready illegal and under control of ATF.**
- **Continue with active shooter drills at any place that is a soft target.** I remember doing these type of drills in school but in those days it was for nuclear attack. Do not limit to schools, include hospitals, nursing/assisted living homes, office buildings, medical office buildings, malls, etc.
- **Check out the movies and video games the kids play hour upon hour. What affect do these violent games/movies have on a developing mind? A mind that also uses weed etc., especially if that brain is troubled to start with**.
- **The entire situation can only be lessened by treating the PROBLEM, MENTAL HEALTH** and not enacting fixes to problems that don't exist. This is what the anti- gun, anti- hunting, anti- second amendment, and anti-VT constitution groups dream about. **THERE IS NO NEED TO ENACT NEEDLESS LAWS THAT MAKE CRIMINALS OUT OF LAW ABIDING CITIZENS**. **There is no need for a solution to a problem that does not exist. Every incident has had numerous warning signs that were ignored until it was too late, were ignored because of existing law on mental health reporting, age, or were not properly handled or reported.** These "problems" are the cause of so many children. teens, and adults being slaughtered needlessly at school, in church, or just trying to have enjoyment; all because of a mentally deranged individual. A democracy does not punish an **entire nation because of the actions or beliefs of a few; that is Socialism. It makes no sense what so ever to disarm an entire population; we know how well that worked for Europe back in the 30's and 40's**. Disarming is not what these bills are about but the fact is it is what many uninformed anti-gun groups are working towards. This is the type of thinking, which causes all the backlash when gun control measures are a needless distraction from a very real problem; people and mental health problems. **A firearm, vehicle, knife, etc. is an inert object not capable of anything until made to do so by a human.**

- **Push for national reciprocity for concealed carry, Castle Doctrine, and stand your ground.**

Having mentioned **juvenile reporting** several times I will Attempt to explain why with two examples out of many. One of which was a male juvenile with whom we had numerous encounters with, most involved felonies. All we could do each time was contact his parents and SRS (now DCF). From that point on all proceedings on the incidents for sealed secrets because of age. These offenses continued to escalate until the male murdered a high school girl and dumped her body into a brook in a rural area of a nearby town. By this time he was old enough to be charged as an adult and imprisoned. From prison, this individual has attempted to arrange for more murders and at least one bombing. The second incident involved three males, one 17 ½ year old and 2 juvenile males who murdered two farmers in Danville back in the fall of 1980 during a botched robbery. The short version of this is the juveniles were offered a deal for testimony against the adult who received time for 2nd degree murder. Several years after the juveniles turned eighteen years old they applied for police officer openings. They somehow made it through the hiring process and academy entrance process. By the time the homicide involvement came to light there individuals were attending the Police Academy. The local Dept. that hired them had to go to Pittsford and remove the individuals for cause; one of the "officers" had fired shots along with the "adult" at the scene of the murders while the second waited in the get away vehicle.

Lastly, I lived through the 1960's once with all the protests by people who were filled full of misinformation fed to them by groups with an agenda that will use any means necessary to "get their way". Out of state "organizers" and millions and millions of out of state dollars are used to spread the untruths of the agenda, which at this point in time is needless "GUN CONTROL". I do not wish to live through that crap again or to reside in such a socialist state. If these bills are signed into law, we will consider listing our property for sale and moving to a state with more incentives for retired folks and respect for the Constitution. I hope it does not come to that measure **just as I hope to God there are no more needless slaughter's brought about by avoiding the true cause of these incidents.** Each time I took my oath of office it was: **"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."** There is nothing about progressively dissecting it to suit the wants of a chosen group of people.

I will close with the TRUTH, which all anti- gun people despise, GUNS DO NOT KILL OR INJURE; PEOPLE KILL AND INJURE. People kill people, not firearms, vehicles, ropes, knives, hammers, etc., they are all inert objects until in the hands of a person. ***We also hear about how much money the "NRA buys" votes and politicians with, but no mention of the millions and millions of dollars that come from Soros and Bloomberg (plus all the other anti-gun/gun control groups) to finance gun control and publish "facts" that are much less than the truth.*** People, including the kids who have decided to skip classes to protest, should research the NRA and other sporting clubs and associations to understand just what they stand for and the classes and types of instruction offered. They may actually learn something instead of being parrots for the anti- gun and anti-second amendment establishment.

Thank you for your time.

George A. Thomson JR.
MSG USA (RET)

80 Emery Road
Orange, VT 05641-9663

From: "bob kal" <choogan491@yahoo.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 3:33:54 PM
To: "Richard Sears" <RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us>, "Brian Campion" <BCampion@leg.state.vt.us>, "Bill Botzow" <BBotzow@leg.state.vt.us>, "Timothy Ordway" <tim@timscomputerservice.com>
Subject: Firearms

Senator Sears, Senator Campion, Rep. Botzow,

My name is Robert Kalinowski Jr. I am currently a resident of Pownal,Vt. I was born and raised in Bennington and I have spent my entire life in Vermont, retiring in 2010 as a Lieutenant from the Vt. State Police after serving nearly 26 years. I spent the last 6 years of my career as the Director of Training. One of my responsibilities was supervising the firearms program, along with instructing. I spent approximately 18 years working the road in uniform. I am currently a Lieutenant with the Bennington County Sheriff's Office. I am the Training Coordinator and lead firearms instructor. I have nearly 1600 hours teaching firearms and I am still an active instructor at the Vermont Police Academy.

The reason for my letter is to share my opinion on what appears to be a knee jerk reaction to the absolutely horrible incident that occurred in Florida.

There is no reason for stricter gun control laws in Vermont. I have witnessed numerous incidents where illegal guns were used or possessed. A high percentage of violent crimes are committed by people who already have a violent criminal record. These people were not punished adequately due to the revolving door nature in the judicial system. I truly believe if someone wants to murder someone, they will find a way to do it whether it is running them over with a vehicle (happened recently in Vermont to a social worker) or a knive or a blunt instrument such as a bat. There is no clear definition of an assault weapon. A 250 dollar pump shotgun stolen from some store or house could cause devastating death and injury to a large group of people. Restricting magazine capacity will not matter. A magazine change can take place in seconds. if someone is intent on shooting people, it will not matter how large the magazine capacity is.

What will happen to all of the law abiding citizens who lawfully bought and possess larger capacity magazines? Please do not penalize innocent people while trying to create a smokescreen. Magazine capacity will not matter.

Bump stock magazines do not make a difference whether or not people will remain safe. In my 30 plus years involved in law enforcement, Until the horrible shooting by the person using a bump stock, I have never seen a firearm used to kill a person(s) having a bump stock.

Where did the idea come from to raise minimum age to 21 to purchase a firearm? How many shootings recently were done by people underage purchasing a firearm instead of simply using a firearm that was in their house or stolen? The Florida shooting was done by the student who did recently purchase a gun, yes, but that is the minority.

A universal background check needs to include mental health professionals providing information about their patients who are not suitable to possess a firearm.

I agree that people with mental health issues, who do not have a criminal record can slip through the cracks. HIPPA has hurt this state and country. There should be no reason why a mental health professional can not enter such a person into a database to "flag" the person. That way, if the person goes to a legitimate gun dealer, the dealer calls to do the "check", the person would be denied and then the person would be obligated to prove they are competent enough to purchase a firearm. I have experienced many people with mental health issues in my capacity as a law enforcement officer, and the majority of time, our hands were tied and a large part was because mental health professionals could not and would not cooperate.

Teachers, law enforcement officers and the mental health professionals should have more leverage and influence to help prohibit firearms from being purchased.

I could begin citing statistics about how many people die each year from drugs, alcohol, knives and other improvised weapons but I will not. Legally obtained firearms are low on the list.

I would encourage you all to put more effort and resources into physically making the schools safer. I was hired by the Bennington School District shortly after I retired from the state police. I was tasked to go to each school and perform a "safety audit", and then write a report on each school.

In every one of my reports, one of my suggestions was controlling every entrance, including one or more metal detectors with an armed officer in EVERY school. I agree nobody wants to make a fortress out of our schools but the priority is our students safety. Some administrators laughed at me and one principal even said "this school safety issue is being blown out of proportion". A dangerous mindset wouldn't you say?

I realize you are very busy but I felt I needed to share my opinion. I would be very interested in discussing this further with anyone as it is difficult to emphasize enough in writing.

I sincerely appreciate your time.

My contact information:

Robert Kalinowski Jr

3176 South Stream Road

Bennington, VT

H 802-447-0614

From: "Tyler Pudvar" <Pud572@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 at 8:16:12 AM
To: "Bill Botzow" <BBotzow@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: POSSIBLE SPAM: Oppose New York-Style Gun Bans and Waiting Periods, Vote No on S.55!

Dear Representative William Botzow:

As a law-abiding Vermont gun owner and your constituent, I respectfully and strongly urge you to Vote

No on S.55!

This anti-gun measure and its proposed amendments seek to ban 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. The amendments to S.55 mirror New York's disastrous and infamous SAFE Act.

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

Sincerely,
Tyler Pudvar
2574 N Pownal Rd
Pownal, VT 05261-9619

From: Carlos Martin [mailto:lcmartin45@icloud.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 10:42 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: Gun laws

Will you please convey to the Governor ,my representatives Bernard Juskiewicz and Richard Westman,and the Speaker of the house , that I am requesting that they not allow any further restrictions on the gun rights of Vermonters.

From: rwright05345 [mailto:rwright05345@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 8:19 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: S.55

We need to have public meetings on S.55 !!!!

From: ronwright802603 [mailto:ronwright802603@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 8:11 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: S.55

We need to have public meetings on S.55 !!!

From: Jeff Farrance <jfarrance@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 1:48 PM
To: Brian Campion; Richard Sears; Linda Joy Sullivan; Mitzi Johnson; maxig@wcvt.com; Maxine Grad; campionvt@gmail.com
Subject: NO! S.55

Hello,

I am representing my wife, myself and 2 sons. (All of us registered voters.)

Please "strongly" oppose S.55

Vote NO and support your constituents with your vote and verbal opposition to this bill (Literally everyone I know and have talked to does in no way support most everything contained within the S.55 bill)

We will be observing this bill and all of those that support it very closely.

If you would like clarity on specific points I will be happy to provide additional information as / if needed.

Thank you so very much!

Sincerely
Jeff Farrance

Readsboro VT

802-423-5618

From: Dennis Carman <denniscarman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 3:11 PM
To: Carl Rosenquist; Philip Baruth; Maxine Grad; Kathleen Keenan; Curt Taylor; Jim Condon; Daniel Connor; Carolyn Partridge; matrieber@gmail.com; Daniel Noyes; Matthew Hill; Jay Hooper; John Gannon; Linda Joy Sullivan; Chip Troiano; Laura Sibilia; Kelly Pajala; Ben Jickling; Fred Baser; Eileen Dickinson; Peter Fagan; jharrison@leg.state.vt.uc; Brian Keefe; Corey Parent; Linda Myers; Kurt Wright
Subject: gun laws

Hello

I have a great deal of experience with guns, a teen killer when I was 15 and a kid that was picked on.

First I find that these proposed guns laws are simply taking advantage of every major shooting to primarily push an anti gun agenda. When I see the laws proposed, they are all aimed at law abiding citizens. Even in this Florida shooting, while the kid did buy one legally, he was only able to so because the many people in charge didn't get the word out to the proper authorities that he was dangerous. It almost seemed like his job was to test the all of the security measures even to the point of the actual shooting to see how security would react.

Next issue, is magazine sizes. I've been a competitive shooter for 36 years now. Not so much now but still active. I have competed in Bulls Eye, PPC, IHMSA and a couple of rifle matches. Even did Camp Perry in Ohio one year because I was at that level. In general my skill level puts me in the 99% level. At one time I could hit an apple at 200 years with my TC in 7TCU with iron sights. Not anymore.

On limiting magazine size. Very foolish, it will only serve to make any mass shooter more deadly. Why? Because the larger the magazine, the greater the failure rate. Significantly greater in the inexperienced shooters because they do not know or understand the maintenance a semi auto of any kind requires. I addition, they are seldom aware of finding the ammunition that works the best.

I have challenged a few people to a shoot at my home. The rules are we both get 20 balloons to shoot at. They get to use my AR. They have to buy their own ammo. I say this because it's highly likely that they will buy the cheapest there is. That means a higher failure rate in terms of feeding into the gun. They also get to choose their magazines they would like to use. 2 , 10 rounders, 1, 20 round or 1 30 round magazine.

I will use my single shot Thompson Contender handgun, which means I must break the gun open, pull out the spent cartridge and put another in and shoot. Unless they are extremely good and lucky, they don't stand a chance against my gun. What I'm doing is proving a point about the real lethality of the available weapons.

Again, these guns laws being proposed are being proposed by the anti gun people that are using the shootings. These shooting raise the emotions and people mistakenly think that these laws will or may slow things down. They won't because the kids are not being targeted in the slightest.

There is also one more issue. Not sure of how much political value it has but it exists. Reelection for some people might change in the future..

The last issue is that any of these laws will cause quite a few of us to be legislated as instant criminals. The feelings are strong enough that we will not cooperate. We simply won't. I went to the gun show at Champlain fair grounds last weekend. The number of AR's for sale was amazing. More than I have ever seen before and they were selling. Instead of people holding off buying them, to see if they could own them, they were buying instead. It's odd, every time the government threatens to take anything away concerning guns, the people buy instead. It includes me at the ripe old age of 70.

Now if these politicians are serious about school safety, that problem is much more difficult to solve. I would volunteer some of my time and expertise on that subject.

As I said, I had a best friend that he and his family were killed by a step brother. The evening it happened, I didn't go over after school like I usually did. Instead my parents left on a rare occasion. I was home alone and had a sense of danger that early evening. I turned all the lights out and hid in a kitchen pantry. When my parents came home, that danger was gone. The next morning, lived out in the country, I walked up our road to another and met the kids waiting for the school bus. They said something terrible had happened. My instant thought was that Butch had killed the entire family and himself. He did not kill himself. He is in jail to this day.

As a kid I was picked on. Things were different in those times. It was not as intense. We weren't exposed to the brutal and gory violence that exists in the entertainment industry. We had a lot more things to do outside. Now everyone is addicted to their cell phones and social bullying is much more intense. I can fully understand where these kids are coming from. These kids are also more dangerous now because they can find others like themselves on the internet and feed off of each other. Included is the sharing of how to kill. I fully expect that these kids will with time gravitate to other more effective forms of killing. I can tell you that if I were a kid, with my knowledge now, the AR would be the last choice of weapon.

There is another point to consider that has yet to be discussed. We haven't had a shooting in which more than 30 kids have been killed. My gut feeling tells me that when these kids set out to take out their frustrations, anger and "I'm going to show the world, and be famous for a moment". These kids once they begin shooting, have their perception destroyed by the reality of what's happening. The poor children being shot are scared to death, screaming and traumatized. The scene is complete chaos and it's going to have a profound affect on the shooter as well. It for that reason I don't believe the numbers will get above 30 people.

That is why I would rather not see these kids pushed to other types of weapons or methods. The other methods would be another style gun, explosives, poisons, fire, or vehicles. If they begin using those, they can easily kill a lot more people before they realize how stupid their actions were.

Your focus if you are serious about ending or cutting back school shooting should begin with fortifying the schools, which I don't like but are necessary for now and then addressing the needs of these kids. That means that you folks figure out how to create a sanctuary out of the school for these kids. Make the high school a pleasant place for it certainly seems that their home life is not that good. I would also suggest that you folks as adults, engage these kids and ask them how to solve the problem of school shootings. No better answers you will get than from these kids.

This is where your focus should be not fooling around passing laws that have no impact on these kids.

Dennis Carman
802-233-7522 call me if you feel it's worth more discussion.

From: Roger Binkerd <rogerbinkerd@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 2:58 PM
To: Janssen Willhoit; Tom Burditt; Martin LaLonde; Rep. Eileen Dickerson; Selene Colburn; Barbara Rachelson; Kiah Morris; Gary Viens; Maxine Grad; Kimberly Jessup; Chip Conquest
Subject: S.55

Roger Binkerd
664 Hills Point Road

Charlotte, VT 05445

802 238 6686

I am 72 years old and a resident of VT for 45 years. I shoot for Sport & Competition and have for the last ten years.

Magazine Limits to 10 need to be eliminated from the BILL s.55 or modified so that our National & International shooting sport USPSA and ISPC will not be infringed. This is a SPORT like sking, or any other sport, and it should not be infringed unilaterally. Unlike sking in Vermont, however, **we HAVE NEVER HAD an accident that caused injury or death,** in the exercise of our sport.

The name of the sport is USPSA: UNITED STATES PRACTICAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION.

Several POLICEMEN from Vermont & New Hampshire shoot with our club: Green Mountain Practical Shooters (GMPS).

The **President of our club, GMPS**, **is and has been a member of the BTV Police Force** for 21 years.

This Officer & me (and many others) shoot in a class called OPEN. The magazines that are allowed in OPEN Division exceed 10 rounds! Limitation of magazines to 10 rounds would seriously eliminate our ability to participate in this division and compete on a NATIONAL & International Basis.

I wish more officers would shoot with us!

USPSA is a member of a world wide Organization of shooting sport called

Please do not pass restrictions on our gun rights in the state of Vermont.

Please vote NO on S.55, No on S.221, No on H. 675

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Buscaglia
437 Maggie s Run,
Sunderland, VT 05250 802 375 6443

From: "Donna L" <lauzondonna@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 9:03:02 AM
To: "Martin LaLonde" <MLaLonde@leg.state.vt.us>, "Bill Botzow" <BBotzow@leg.state.vt.us>, "Mitzi Johnson" <MJohnson@leg.state.vt.us>, "Cynthia Browning" <cbrowning@leg.state.vt.us>, "rchestnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us" <rchestnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us>, "Timothy Corcoran" <TCorcoran@leg.state.vt.us>, "Rachael Fields" <RFields@leg.state.vt.us>, "Brian Keefe" <BKeefe@leg.state.vt.us>, "Alice Miller" <AMILLER@leg.state.vt.us>, "Laura Sibilia" <LSibilia@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Say no to S.55 and its amendments

Since, "coincidentally" 2A supporters testimony was placed into spam- you need to hold a public hearing and confirm that you have received all written testimony. It's bad enough you want to pick apart the second amendment- now you are ignoring the first? The vote yesterday should be null and void as this information has been brought to light.
Here is my testimony:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Donna L <lauzondonna@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2018, 2:07 PM
Subject: Say no to S.55 and its amendments
To: <mlalonde@leg.state.vt.us>, Bill Botzow <BBotzow@leg.state.vt.us>, <mjohnson@leg.state.vt.us>, <cbrowning@leg.state.vt.us>, <rchestnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us>, <tcorcoran@leg.state.vt.us>, <rfields@leg.state.vt.us>, <BKeefe@leg.state.vt.us>, <amiller@leg.state.vt.us>, <lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us>

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 their 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.

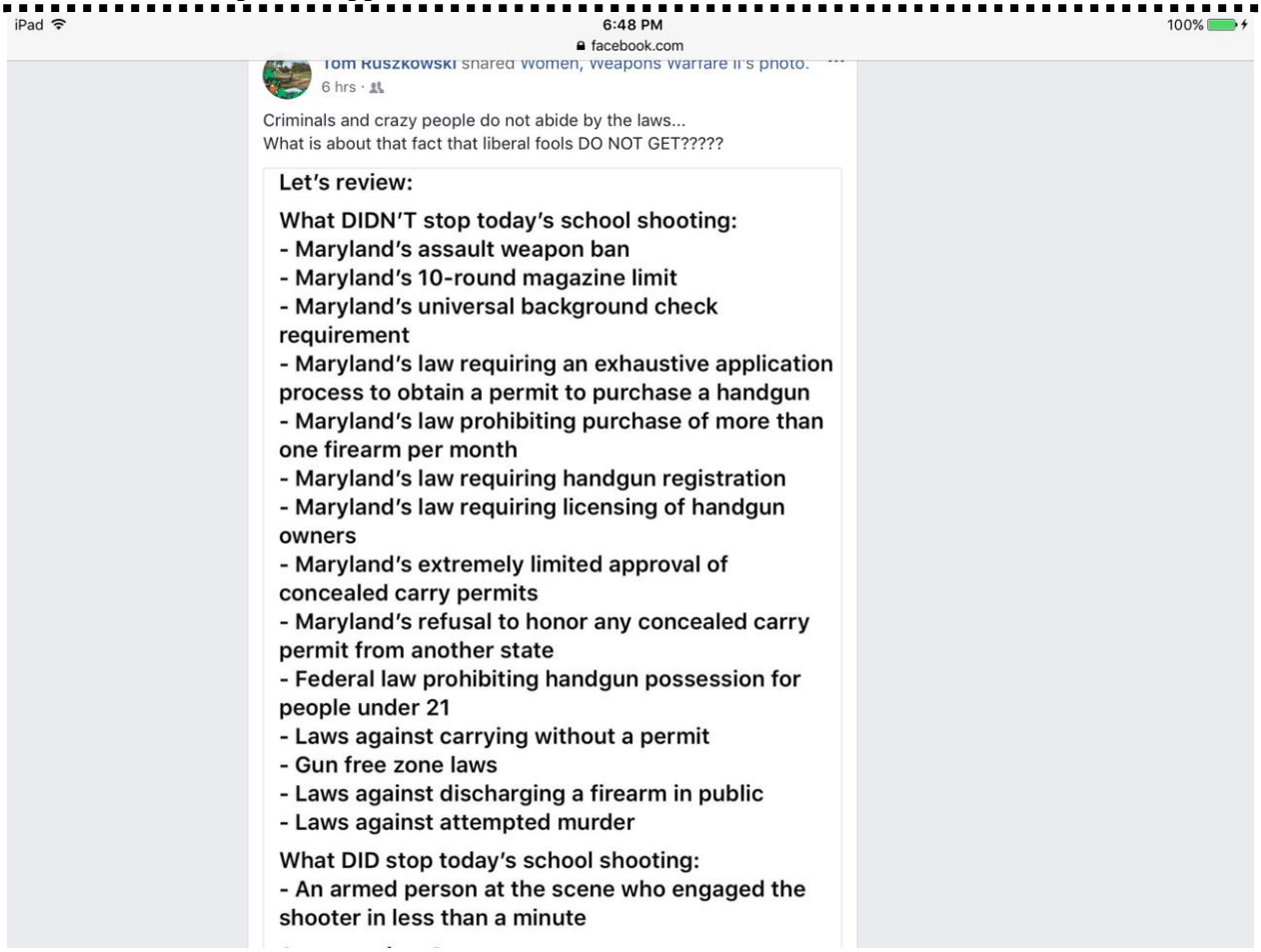
Calling for a ban certain firearms is a lazy initiative and will not stop a person who intends to harm another. Your feel good moment will end the first time someone uses a knife, a bomb, or handgun to hurt someone. And then what...keep banning firearms until there are none left? Will you have that "humanitarian 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



Dan Rapphahn danrapphahnvt@gmail.com

dear sir I am respectfully opposed to bill S55- S221 and H675 thank you peter

Peter Laplante peter82455@gmail.com

I am writing to notify you of my opposition to S.55. I live in VT for a reason. Do not make VT into our neighbor, NY.

Obediah Racicot
SHELBURNE

I'd like to voice my opposition to s.55 and request a public hearing on the bill Thank you for your time!
Jason Knapp fadetoblack72@hotmail.com

Dear Representative,

I urge you, as my representatives to the Vermont Legislature, to vote against the current crop of proposed "gun control" bills being considered in the Vermont Legislature. Let me explain why it is my opinion that you should vote "no" on each of these measures:

We must all be mindful not to be infected with the hysteria sweeping through this country and our own community following the school shooting in Florida and the identification of a disaffected young man in Rutland County who could possibly one day have committed a similar atrocity. Great though this country may be, we have never done well when whipped into a frenzy of fear about the boogeyman in our midst. The mass hysteria following Pearl Harbor that Japanese spies and saboteurs aided in the attack on Pearl Harbor led to the internment of over 100,000 people in this country in what were effectively concentration camps solely because of their Japanese ancestry. In the 1950's, as the real possibility of nuclear war with the USSR caused mass public fear, we got Joe McCarthy and his infamous lists. 9/11 brought mass hysteria about the Arab terrorists hiding among us. This boogeyman led to the Patriot Act which set in motion the most comprehensive campaign of legal government surveillance on its own people ever imagined in the free world. Today, this country is again in hysteria, now over the disaffected young man with the black rifle. The public response to the boogeyman of the moment touted by politicians and the media is gun control. Gun control is no more a sensible response to the current scourge of random violence than incarcerating over 100,000 people based on ethnicity, engaging in communist witch hunts or giving up our liberty from government surveillance were sensible responses to the mass fear of those moments. In each instance, our fear has been based on real events but those events, while captivating and inflaming high emotion, have been exceedingly rare and not statistically significant in the spectrum of hazards the people in this country actually face day to day.

Your responsibility to me, as my state representatives, is to create, repeal and modify state statutes which regulate business and relationships within the borders of this State. I insist that you discharge this duty responsibly by ensuring that any law you support pertain to an actual issue or problem in this State of Vermont and that each change in the law that you propose or for which you vote "yes" be based on sound policy which is itself based on actual facts and data. Feelings, personal ideologies and "common sense" have no place in legislative debate unless they are based on facts and data. In particular, and I am sure you know already, anytime a politician uses the words "common sense" in connection with policy, that is code for policy which is derived from emotional beliefs and is wholly lacking in support by facts and data.

All of which brings me to the current crop of gun control measures being batted about in the Vermont Legislature. I demand that you, my representatives, only support bills restricting the acquisition, ownership or use of firearms for which there are strong facts and data which demonstrate that the people of this State of Vermont will be safeguarded from actual, statistically meaningful risks which are actually present in this State of Vermont. Rather than suggesting the answers which I believe you should reach on each of these measures, I will instead suggest some questions you should ask before you support or vote in favor of any of these measures. My idea being that if you don't have concrete answers to these questions, then you cannot possibly have a

fact based foundation on which to make policy that will impact tens of thousands of people in this State. These questions are as follows:

A. Universal background checks:

1. What is your answer to the GAO report on the ATF enforcement action concerning buying guns on the internet? I presume you have studied this report and that it has had at least some impact on whether you continue to believe universal background checks could be useful (the ATF clearly does not). If you have not studied this report, I would strongly advise that you do so before attempting to make policy in this area.

2. Since it is already a felony criminal offense to knowingly transfer a firearm to a disqualified person, how many prosecutions have there been in Vermont for illegal transfers of firearms to disqualified persons?

3. Of the guns used in crimes by disqualified persons in Vermont, what number of those guns were obtained through private sales which would have been prevented by universal background checks?

4. Is there any fact based evidence that a single gun came into the hands of a disqualified person in Vermont which would have been prevented by universal background checks? If so, what is the number of gun transfers which would have been prevented by universal background checks in the last 10 years?

5. How many lawful private transfers of firearms in Vermont per year will be burdened by universal background checks?

6. What is the percentage ratio of lawful firearms transfers in Vermont which will be burdened by universal background checks to the number of illegal firearms transfers which will be prevented by universal background checks?

7. What percentage of illegal acquisitions of guns by disqualified persons in Vermont was made through transactions which would be prevented by universal background checks versus other methods of acquisition (i.e. straw purchases, sales of gun by persons who knew the transfer was illegal, thefts, etc.)?

8. Why is there no consideration to limiting the fee firearms dealers can charge for background checks in private transfers or allocating public monies to assist the indigent with these fees?

9. What evidence is there on how universal background checks will impact the access to firearms for low income individuals? A background check fee of $25 or $50 might cause a firearm to be unaffordable to a person trying to support a family on a minimum wage job. Are the poor less entitled to self-protection to the wealthy?

B. Raising the long gun purchasing age to 21:

1. How many long guns are purchased by Vermont residents ages 18 - 20 on a yearly basis?

2. In the last ten years, how many long guns purchased by Vermont residents between the ages of 18 and 20 have been used in crimes by persons younger than 21?

3. What is the percentage ratio between total sales of long guns to Vermont residents between the ages of 18 and 20 in the last 10 years and long guns used by persons under 21 to commit crimes which had been purchased by a Vermont resident between the ages of 18 and 20?

C. "Assault Weapon" Ban:

1. How many homicides have there been in Vermont in the last 10 years in which a person was killed by an "assault weapon" which was not a police shooting?

2. How many crimes have been committed in Vermont in the last 10 years in which an "assault weapon" was used?

3. How many "assault weapons" are currently in private ownership in Vermont?

4. What is the ratio between the total number of "assault weapons" used in crimes in Vermont in the last 10 years and the total number of "assault weapons" in private ownership in Vermont in the last 10 years?

D. Magazine Capacity Ban:

1. How many criminal shooting incidents have there been in Vermont in the last 10 years in which more than 10 rounds were fired from an individual magazine (not fired by the police)?

2. In the history of Vermont from 1791 to the present, has there been a single criminal shooting incident in which more than 10 rounds were fired from an individual magazine (again not fired by the police)?

E. Safe Storage:

1. How many firearms have been in private ownership in Vermont on annual basis over the last 10 years?

2. How many of those firearms in Vermont are not already stored in an approved safe?

3. How many deaths in Vermont in the last 10 years would have been prevented by a person being unable to access a firearm because it was secured in an approved safe?

F. Waiting Period:

1. How many homicides or suicides in Vermont in the last 10 years would have been prevented if the person using the firearm to cause the homicide or suicide was required to wait 10 days before picking up the firearm?

2. What is the percentage ratio between all firearm transfers in Vermont during the last 10 years and the total number of deaths in Vermont which would have been prevented by a waiting period?

G. Extreme Protection Orders:

1. Do you understand that despite the title of S.221 as addressing "Extreme" risk that, in fact, S.221 will apply to virtually incidents of assaultive and threatening behavior?

2. Are you aware that the allegations against Jack Sawyer would have been legally insufficient for a court to find that he presented and "extreme risk" and be subject to an extreme risk order as presented in S.221? Did you know that a Jack Sawyer type scenario is almost the only type of risk of violence which S.221 would not encompass?

3. Presuming you have read S.221 do you feel qualified to understand what the provisions of this statute mean, how it would be applied in the courts and the breadth of Vermonters who will be impacted by this law? Assuming that you do not feel qualified to understand S.221, what efforts have you made to engage people with expertise to assist you in gaining understanding about what this law means?

H. H.422:

1. How would this legislation withstand the first constitutional challenge in court?

You asked for my vote to win the position you now occupy. I gave my vote to you because you asked me for it. Now I am asking you one simple thing: Only make laws which are based on sound policy which is itself based on facts and data. If you cannot find that a proposed restriction on the acquisition, ownership or use of firearms in Vermont directly addresses an established risk of harm actually present in Vermont, then I demand that you oppose such a restriction. To support law and policy which does not have a sound basis in facts and data is, in my view, an irresponsible discharge of the tremendous responsibility you have asked for and received from the voters in this community. I feel certain that you will do the right thing.

Thank you,
Sent from my iPad

Rick LaBelle ricklabelle527@msn.com

My name is Kara crown I live in Waterford Vermont and I say No to S.55

Sent from my iPad

Please vote No on S.55, the state of Vermont does not need new gun laws.....Thank you
Rick LaBelle ricklabelle527@msn.com

Due to the Mishandleing (deliberate or not) of many telephone calls and emails that went to the statehouse in opposition to S.55 and other gun control nonsence, I guess I/we need to send them and call again. I/we are the polite,silent,or not, majority of voters here in Vermont and we oppose all of this nonsence that isn't needed or wanted. I believe that if you read the Vermont constitution as well as the US constitution you and the supreme court and myself will find this nonsence UNCONSTITUTIONAL.
The silent majority voted Donald Trump President and will in this state hold our legeslators accountable when we vote. R F Harris Hinesburg, Vermont

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Please know I am opposed to S.55

John des Groseilliers
Hardwick, VT
802 472 5541

Hi Mike,
I am writing to express my urgent and strong OPPOSITION to S.55. Please forward my protest to the bill to each member of the committee. We do not want or need any provisions for storage nor for limiting our magazine capacity. If 3 men break into my house and each one of them has a 15 round capacity gun, then I will need my 30 round magazine and I will still be outgunned. I have the right to decide what it best to protect me and my family - not some legislator who moved here 9 years ago. If magazine capacity is limited, then the same scenario I spoke of would be that the criminals would still have 15-17 round magazines and I would then be limited to 10. After the 10 rounds, they would rush in and kill me and my family. Please just stop the bill and leave our rights alone. Remember, the words "shall not be infringed" mean something. The law abiding citizens in this country should not have to keep defending themselves year after year when a few madmen go on a killing spree.
Thank you.

Paul Morris
45 Prospect St
Rutland, VT 05701
802-353-5165

From: Ethan Ploof [mailto:ploofe@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:41 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: S.55 Bill

Good afternoon,

As a young Vermont sportsman. I am writing this email today in hopes that this bill will not come to pass. It seems that it is a very rushed and not well thought out. Some points on the bill I do agree with. Domestic abusers and raising the age seem very reasonable to me. I cannot agree with the bans on magazines and AR's. Being a citizen of the United States we hold our freedoms dear to us. It's why we have fought for freedom and liberty through out our short history. Our rights and free speech in this country seem to have turned into what is currently "trending" in society. I strongly encourage reconisderation.

Regards,
Ethan Ploof

From: John Kubas [mailto:kubas@lanepress.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 11:08 AM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: Oppose S 55

To all you legislators I oppose any new gun legislation.....
Article 16th. **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.

From: john talbot [mailto:ttrapper18@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 8:32 AM
To: Gary Viens; Alice Nitka; Selene Colburn; SgtAtArms; Richard Sears
Subject: Fw: gun control bills

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: john talbot <ttrapper18@yahoo.com>
To: cconquest@leg.state.vt.us <cconquest@leg.state.vt.us>; scolburn@leg.stsate.vt.us <scolburn@leg.stsate.vt.us>; edickinson@leg.state.vt.us <edickinson@leg.state.vt.us>; tburditt@leg.state.vt.us <tburditt@leg.state.vt.us>; gveins@leg.state.vt.us <gveins@leg.state.vt.us>; mlalonde@leg.state.vt.us <mlalonde@leg.state.vt.us>; kjessup@leg.state.vt.us <kjessup@leg.state.vt.us>; jwillhoit@leg.state.vt.us <jwillhoit@leg.state.vt.us>; rsears@leg.stae.vt.s <rsears@leg.stae.vt.s>; jwhite@leg.state.vt.us <jwhite@leg.state.vt.us>; anitka@leg.state.vt.s <anitka@leg.state.vt.s>; tashe@leg.state.vt.us <tashe@leg.state.vt.us>; sgtatarms@leg.stte.vt.us <sgtatarms@leg.stte.vt.us>; jbenning@leg.state.vt.us <jbenning@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 06:00:56 AM CDT
Subject: gun control bills

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I am writing in regard to the flurry of activity in Montpelier to push through unlawful as well as ineffective gun control bills in Vermont. The bills as you know are S55 ,H422 and S221 as well as any others that may be working there way through the government. As has become the new normal in this country and state the law abiding { in this case gun owners} are prejudiced against and blamed for the illegal actions of others. Instead of punishing the law breakers these bills instead seek to impose punishment on the law abiding by infringing on the Constitutional rights of Vermonter's Second Amendment and rights to due

process through the 5th and 14th Amendments. Likewise these bills go against article 16 of the Vermont Constitution.

The rights outlined in the U.S. Constitution are unalienable, natural or more precisely God given! they are not given by the government and are therefore not yours to take away! Hence , laws and statutes that violate Natural Rights, though they may be called laws are not laws but imposters. As a legislator it is your responsibility to protect the God given Rights outlined in The Constitution!

I understand the desire to make our schools safer. We all want that! But Blaming a tool, in this case a gun, or the law abiding, gun owners will not solve the problem. Surely if gun control worked, Chicago, Oakland,New York City and D.C. would be model example's of Safety. Instead crime and murder rates are high and the people are left defenseless. If you want to enforce the laws we have and swiftly and severely punish those who use guns in crimes I will stand with you! Punishing the innocent by stripping them of there rights tells me that you are unfit for the office you hold. { my 5 yr old daughter knows that only the person that did wrong should be punished.} As Benjamin Franklin said "those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

I want to state once again that I strongly oppose any and all gun control! Those bills give a false sense of security, will NOT protect anyone, and most importantly violate the Constitution and my rights!

To those in Montpelier who are taking a stand for freedom and protecting our rights (some of whom I have been privileged to talk to} I say thank you, you are true Patriots!

Respectfully,
John Talbot
Newark, Vt

From: jasonmballou02 [mailto:jasonmballou02@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 5:53 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: To my uncaring reps

At least orange county cares a to have a question and answer on such a horrible bill like S55 this bill is not for VT. I am tired of having our reputation be about party agendas, thank for nothing

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From: Peter Dubois [mailto:duboispete66@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 4:46 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject:

I am a voter and of legal age and I do not approve of any new gun laws

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From: Brian Decatur [mailto:layzr_752@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:18 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: Weopons Ban

I live in Williston and I vote in every election. Everyone one who votes to ban any weapon will loose my vote imeadately! I will remember the names and I will never vote for them as long as they stay in politics.

Brian S Decatur.

From: King [mailto:terrybk@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:10 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: Gun legislation

Please forward this to everyone in the House and the Governor that I regretfully voted for. We live in one of the most heavily armed states in the country and at the same time are ONE OF

THE SAFEST! The last minute change to S.55 is an attempt by a liberal Burlington asshole to make the reasonable Richard Sears bill now totally unexcetible. A classic case of give an inch- take a mile. The ONLY thing that will help with **senseless** gun violence is accurate mental health reporting to the FBI/proper agencies and all state and federal agencies doing their jobs. (Remember- No one in most recent Florida school shooting did their job!)

I urge everyone with a vote, **NOT** to support S.55! We- the people, put you in this position because we thought you would uphold the laws of the land. I hope you are better than California law makers that defy Federal laws daily.

Thank you.
Terry King – St. Albans

From: VTFSC Information <Communicator@VT2a.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:04 AM
To: Maxine Grad
Subject: Stop Gun Owner Control

Maxine --

The volume of your E-mails and telephne calls have caused problems at the state house. **So, read the letter below to see what has happened, your ability to voice your opposition to S.55 is being crushed.**
You need to call the Vermont State House at 802-828-2228 (if this number is busy call 802-828-2245) to leave a message for Speaker Mitzi Grad to politely demand:
1. "A public hearing on S.55"
2. "All of citizen/constituent E-mails and telephone calls opposing S-55 must be allowed to be received by our legislators"

At the public hearing on gun control at 5:30 PM Tuesday night at Barre City Hall there will be at least four members of the House of Representatives in attendance. If you attend please wear orange.
You as legitimate honest gun owning citizens are being marginalized and oppressed.

Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
454 S Main Street
Northfield VT, 05663
(802) 485-6818 vtfsc.president@gmail.com www.vtfsc.org

Speaker Mitzi Johnson and Representative Maxine Grad
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05663

March 19, 2018

RE: Request for Public Hearing on S.55

Dear House Speaker Johnson and House Judiciary Chair Grad -

The coalition of Vermont-based firearms groups which is comprised of the Vermont Federation of Sportsman's Clubs (VTFSC), the Vermont Traditions Coalition (VTC) and the Gun Owners of Vermont (GOVT), have all noted several issues which we bring to your attention.

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.

Signed:

Chris Bradley, President - VTFSC
Ed Larson, Executive Director - VTC
Ed Cutler, President - GOVT

cc: Governor Phil Scott
Lt Governor David Zuckerman
All Vermont Senators
All Vermont Representatives

VTFSC Information
http://csbvtfsc.nationbuilder.com/

From: Thomas Buczkowski <trb42_2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 5:37 AM
To: Maxine Grad; Ed Read; Ann Cummings; Anthony Pollina; Francis Brooks
Subject: The issue is not always what you think

To my Representatives and Senators,

Please take the time to listen to what the Governor of Kentucky has to say, it is some of the issues I have been trying to get across to all.

Thank you,
Tom Buczkowski
Waitsfield

The Governor of Kentucky tells what has happened to America.

Governor of Kentucky

Gov. Bevin Responds to Alleged Hypocrisy

Gov. Bevin responds to question concerning his stance on school violence.

Hi Mike , My name is Russell Fortin and I am a registered voter in Swanton Vermont . I respectfully request that a public hearing be granted on S.55 before it is voted on . I understand our many messages that have been left are going unheard because of the overwhelming Response against S.55 . Wwe need to have a chance to be heard before any legislation is voted on . Please be sure Mitzi Grand knows this .

Thank You , Russ Fortin

From: Mariah Mitchell <mariah.mitchell2134@gmail.com>
Date: March 16, 2018 at 1:13:10 PM EDT
To: rsears@leg.state.vt.us, mjohnson@leg.state.vt.us, mgrad@leg.state.vt.us, maxjg@wcvt.com
Subject: Bill S.55

Dear Representatives,

I would first like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Mariah Mitchell from Morrisville, VT. I am a Volunteer Vermont Hunter Education Instructor, Firearm Instructor at Vermont Outdoors Woman Doe Camp, and also a Volunteer with the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen Clubs and Operation Game Thief. I began hunting after I attended Green Mountain Conservation Camp at Buck Lake at twelve years old. I am now

twenty, and educate not only children but also adults ranging from 18 years old to 70 years old on the importance of firearm safety.

I take great pride in having the opportunity to educate the public on this matter. Education is crucial, as well as respect. Students ranging from six years old to 40+ have come through my Hunter Education classes. In every class I instill the importance of respect, familiarity, and safety with any firearm that the student may handle in their life time. In order for a student to pass my class, they must demonstrate respectful and safe behavior. I will not pass a student unless I feel 100% comfortable with their behavior, and I monitor it to the best of my abilities throughout my course.

Now, I would like to discuss my experiences while teaching at Doe Camp. Vermont Outdoors Woman Doe Camp is an all women's three day retreat that offers a wide variety of classes: Ice fishing, crocheting, Nordic skating, snowshoeing, basket weaving, cross-country skiing, archery, handgun marksmanship & safety, and rifle & muzzleloader skills & safety. I have the pleasure to instruct the handgun marksmanship & safety class as well as the rifle & muzzleloader skills and safety class.

What I love most about teaching this class is having the opportunity to empower women. Most women who come through the class have never had the opportunity to work with a firearm. Some women have family who hunt, but want to learn from someone other than their spouse, others are timid but want to become more familiar with firearms. No matter what their background is, every woman who has come through my class has left more confident and empowered.

One particular story has stuck with me since I began teaching. There was a woman that I had the pleasure to work with who was a legal caseworker. Most of her cases were regarding crimes involving firearms. She had developed this "hatred" toward firearms, although she had never had the opportunity to handle one. She was taking my class with the hope that she could dissolve the negative emotion toward an object that in all reality is harmless, unless put into the hands of someone dangerous. After having the opportunity to work with a wide variety of firearms ranging from a .22 rifle to an AR-15, she left my class feeling much more comfortable about firearms.

The reason I am writing you today is in response to bill S.55. I firmly believe that banning any form of firearm will not solve or minimize gun violence in the state of Vermont. The state of Vermont currently has some of the most lenient gun laws, yet is one of the safest states in the U.S. Removing firearms from law abiding citizens will not keep them out of the hands of unlawful citizens- criminals. If a criminal wants a firearm, they will get it, despite the laws.

The state of Vermont needs to focus on mental health issues and bullying. A majority of deaths resulting from firearms is from suicide. The school systems need to stop saying their schools have "zero tolerance" for bullying, and actually enforce it. There need to be people who are passionate enough to listen and help others when they need it. There were multiple signs made by the Florida shooter that were ignored, and could have potentially prevented the tragedy from occurring if taken seriously.

The guns are not the problem, people are the problem. Until the mental health issues are addressed, the firearms will continue to make their way into the hands of a dangerous individual. The concept is no different than the heroin problem that we are experiencing in this state. Although heroin is illegal, people still find a way to use the drug. As long as firearms exist, criminals will continue to get their hands on them.

Taking away the rights from law-abiding citizens is unjust and goes against the 2nd amendment. The state of Vermont needs to focus on the actual problem, rather than blame it on an object that is 100% harmless, unless put in the hands of a dangerous individual. These individuals will continue to get their hands on a firearm, whether it is a semi-automatic, or a pump action 20 gauge shotgun. Bill S.55 will only make lawful citizens vulnerable to attack by those who have harmful intentions.

Please vote no.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

--

Mariah Mitchell

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Vermont resident, I am writing to respectfully request that you vote NO on S.55. Its the wrong way to go for Vermont!!

Thank you!

Respectfully
Colleen A Geddis

No on S.55. VT isn't a dangerous place. Why take guns away from law abiding citizens?!?!?!?

Thank you,
Tyler Hulbert
802-881-4330 -CELL

Hello,

My name is Nick Buell and I currently reside in Bennington, VT. The reason for this email is to express my concerns for the attempt to pass S.55. I've lived in this great state for over half of my life and enjoyed the rights and freedoms this state allows that most others don't. The fact that a very small portion of our population want to ban semi automatic firearms, based off the recent acts of violence, is completely ridiculous. This bill harms the law abiding citizens rights, not the criminals who commit these horrific acts. No only is it political suicide for any member of legislation who attempts to pass it, it's not going to solve the issue at hand. I have been sport shooting for more than a decade now and I've even taught my 8 year old son to shoot. He's very responsible and knowledgeable about the SAFE use of a firearm and knows the dangers that could happen if you're irresponsible with one. I think there's bigger fish to fry in this state, which also has the 3rd lowest crime rate in the country, than taking away our constitutional rights. Heroine kills more people just in the last year in Bennington alone than any firearm has in over 50 years. Clearly firearms aren't the problem. It's the crimes committed by the mentally unstable with firearms that's the problem. Banning firearms isn't going to change the fact that criminals will still get their hands on them. Look how making drugs illegal worked. Criminals will always find a way to get what they want, so hurting the good law abiding citizens is asinine. There will be no good that comes out of this bill being passed and I hope you all reconsider the passing of this bill. Guns don't kill people, people kill people.

From: Sandi [mailto:sandilb@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:19 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: Gun control bill S55

I am totally opposed to this bill and anti gun bills. Do not try to fix something that has worked for 200 years!!

From: Donny McManus [mailto:sledhead1119@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:02 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: S.55 Lalond Amendment

Please tell all Legislators and Senators
to vote no on S.55 and the LaLond Amendment.
Thank you
Donny McManus from Poultney Vt.

Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to reach out and say NO to bill S.55. We do not need additional guns laws in the state. Rather we should enforce the laws currently on the books. Criminals do not respect and will not follow any new laws. Taking away 2nd Amendment rights from the good guys will not change anything.

Regards,
Another responsible gun owner
Nate King kingn1@comcast.net

From: Ariane Dulski [mailto:adulski12@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:29 PM
To: Richard Sears; Mitzi Johnson; SgtAtArms; Maxine Grad
Subject: S.55

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ariane Dulski and I live in Pittsford, Vermont. I am writing to you today to share that I am against the Bill S.55 regarding firearms. I am sure you have heard all of the opposing arguments such as, "guns don't kill people, people kill people", car accidents result in more death/injury, etc. Instead I will tell you my specific interest in the second ammendment.

I am a 28 year old female that stands at 5'4", about 130 pounds. I am alone 12 out of 14 nights due to my fiance working second shift. If I am alone and an intruder walks in I will not be able to defend myself while I wait for the cops to come without some sort of tool(s). Exercising my second ammendment right would be my LAST resort, but I am very grateful to have it as an option. There have been documented cases of an Armalite Rifle (AR) being used in home defense.

My fiance and I also raise chickens which are susceptible to many predators. As protection to my flock and myself while I am out there in the dark hours making sure that they have food and water especially during these snowstorms, I am a target for a predator. Again using my second amendment right as a LAST resort, I am once again happy to have this option.

Vermont is a beautiful state in which hunting is a large sport. Armalite Rifles (ARs) chambererd in an appropriate caliber are great hunting rifles for smaller statures such as myself and young children learning to hunt. Many hunting rifles are too large, heavy, and have a recoil that is too powerful for smaller statures like myself. I would like to be able to have future generations enjoy hunting without being scared of the recoil.

Last but not least, Vermont has a relatively low crime rate when compared to other states. Cities like Chicago which have strict gun laws are no stranger to crime.

School shootings are very unfortunate and should not occur, but are much larger than gun control alone. Other buildings such as hospitals are also susceptible to incidents.

What I would LOVE TO SEE happen in Vermont as well as other states, would be to increase mental health resources. I find it very unfortunate that our population with mental health illnesses are unable to easily access resources to get the help they need and deserve. After Irene, our mental health resources have not been the same. In addition, I would love to see increased security in buildings such as schools and hospitals.

I ask that each and every one of you in these seats take a look at the WHOLE picture rather than just one small piece of a large puzzle.

Thank you for your time,
Ariane

From: Mac Mill [mailto:gxm0963@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:23 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: Gun laws

Hi, I am a Vermonter who feels that we should protect our 2nd amendment rights. Guns are a part of our culture in Vermont which has little to no crimes that involve firearms. Please consider Vermonters such as myself who pay taxes and are law abiding.

Thank you, Graeme Miller.

From: Angelo Forth [mailto:forth788@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:14 PM
To: David Soucy; Dave Potter; SgtAtArms
Subject: Fwd: Gun nonsense bill S.55

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: Gun nonsense bill S.55
Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 12:50:22 -0400
From: Angelo <forth788@comcast.net>
To:mbailey@leg. state. vt. us <mbailey@leg.state.vt.us>
CC:forth788@comcast.net <forth788@comcast.net>

Advise the chief of the Kabal, in Montpelier, Martin Lalonde, that his and Bloomberg's S.55 Bill is unconstitutional under Vermont 's Article 16 State Constitution. I'm sure he's read it throughout because his oath of office requires to uphold and defend same. NO, NO, NO, and NO to S.55!!!

From: Angelo Forth <forth788@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:10 PM
To: Brian Collamore; Joe Benning; Maxine Grad
Subject: Fwd: Gun nonsense bill S.55

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: Gun nonsense bill S.55
Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 12:50:22 -0400
From: Angelo <forth788@comcast.net>
To:mbailey@leg. state. vt. us <mbailey@leg.state.vt.us>
CC:forth788@comcast.net <forth788@comcast.net>

Advise the chief of the Kabal, in Montpelier, Martin Lalonde, that his and Bloomberg's S.55 Bill is unconstitutional under Vermont 's Article 16 State Constitution. I'm sure he's read it throughout because his oath of office requires to uphold and defend same. NO, NO, NO, and NO to S.55!!!

From: Matthew Prive [mailto:matt.prive1017@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:27 AM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: S55

I'm confused on how taking guns away from law abiding citizens is going to protect ANYONE? Do you think criminals care if guns are legal? Criminals don't care now all this is going to do is disarm citizens who are No danger to anyone and make more victims. I refuse to have 911 be the only protection in my household. Cops take 20 minutes or more to show up when 911 is dialed...if they show up at all. This Bill is unconstitutional and somebody needs to stand up for our rights.

THE AR15 HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE 60's. Clearly this is not the issue. The issue is uneducated people who think " oh that gun looks scary" the guns are not the problem. The problem is shitty people. Stop releasing criminals from Jail/prison who have multiple guns violations. I'm terrified what will happen when Criminals are the only ones with guns.

From: Lexi Duby [mailto:mangoschica71311@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:24 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: S55

Please take into consideration that our household opposes the amendment to S55. The state of Vermont does not currently have a gun safety issue and our current gun laws work just fine the way they are. Vermont has one of the lowest gun violence rates in the country.

From: PETER DEMICK [mailto:vtwlkwy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:31 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S-55

I oppose this bill and I urge you to also oppose this bill.. Vermont does not need to go the special interest group and Has been historically one of the safest states.. I have been sport shooting for over 30 years and the thought of you Banning rifles I own is Ludicrous. Have you not read the Constitution of the United States? S-55 is a shameful response to a mental health issue worldwide. Over 5500 kids were killed last year texting and driving, go after this and not my Constitutional rights in the USA.. Thank you .. Pete

---

From: linda hendrickson <artandlindah@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:35:25 AM
To: Maxine Grad; Anthony Pollina; Ann Cummings; Francis Brooks; Tim Ashe; Anne Donahue; Ed Read
Subject: Gun Bill

From Arthur (NOT LINDA) Hendrickson in Moretown: If the military style gun bill is anything like what is being reported on TV you will be making a lot of law abiding citizens outlaws. Have you considered that these guns now legally owned are more apt to be sold on the black market and into the hands of the wrong people? If you want to pass bills as stringent as reported you should work to change the U.S. Constitution first. I do not have a problem with the background checks being improved but some of the things reported are going way too far. Legislation can not and will not stop evil but it surely can eliminate freedom. Thank you for considering this before you vote. Art H.

To the Judiciary committee,

I am writing to let my voice be heard in regards to the S.55 bill on guns in Vermont.

I am HIGHLY OPPOSED TO THIS BILL! It is unconstitutional, as it infringes on our rights by dictating who can buy guns and what types are allowed.

Please do your fellow citizens a favor and uphold your oath of office by supporting the constitution. To do otherwise would be to break your oath.

Thank you very much,
Sarah Houghton

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 11:16:09 AM
To: Maxine Grad
Cc: luke; Brad Willey
Subject:

Any one supporting this bill (S.55) as written will feel the rath of legitamte gun owners. This is the most rediculous thing you have ever done.
Those guns in Floridia and anywhere else did not kill anyone, anymore than the bridge in Miami. It is the human person responsible.
If Vermont wants to be a leader they should instead look at all the violence on TV and in the movies teaching our young people to kill when they get upset with something. We are brain washing our children with this very vile media put in front of them every day !
Desmond Willey

--

Willey Earthmoving
Office: 802-674-2500
Desi: 802-291-0105
Luke: 802-299-7063

To the members of the House Judiciary Committee,

NO NO NO to S.55. No new gun control laws at all. Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

Luke and Debbie Willard
226 Whiting Lane
Brownington, VT 05860
(802) 274-3887

From: N Stahler <nstahler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:52:03 PM
To: Maxine Grad; Chip Conquest; Tom Burditt; Selene Colburn; Eileen Dickinson; Kimberly Jessup; Martin LaLonde; Kiah Morris; Barbara Rachelson; Gary Viens; Janssen Willhoit
Subject: S.55 and HJC Amendment

Hello,

I feel compelled to write today to voice my complaint regarding the amendment to S.55 which Mr. LaLonde offered this week.

I am a lawful gun owner. I also believe in the need for efficacious gun laws and I have been pleased with the "middle path" approach that most of the Vermont legislation has recently taken. I feel this "middle path" legislative approach needs to be taken on our most contentious issues to maintain a cohesive society.

However, the amendment offered this week by Mr. LaLonde is far from this path and makes it impossible for many people to support S.55. Unfortunately, these sorts of amendments make many Vermonters hesitant to support any new gun control measures.

I took issue with some aspects of the original bill, but would ultimately have given it my support. However, in it's HJC amended form, I am a strong NO on S.55

Sincerely,

Nathan Stahler
Montpelier, VT

To those with a say from 2 Vermont Voters, NO to S. 55

Thanks,

Timothy Shipman
Barbara Shipman
E. Burke Vt.

From: Tru Stars [mailto:partyposse_2k@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: I OPPOSE S55 BILL

I am a VT citizen and I oppose bill S55.

Hi
I was told I could send an email expressing my opposition to S.55.

As a Vermonter, taxpayer, and retired State Police Trooper I am opposed to S.55 or any other bill that addresses firearms. We only need to enforce existing law, not create new law.

If you want to create meaningful progress, I urge you to create a mental health database that can be checked just like the criminal checks.

The real public safety issue in Vermont problem is that the State Hospital was an invaluable resource and it's gone and needs to be replaced. Please fix this! governor Scott's 12 bed solution is a pathetic band aid of a joke.

The ERs are full of mental health patients simply waiting for a treatment bed. This is a disgrace.

Instead of a new prison, Vermont needs a new state hospital. 200 beds for MH and 200 for opiate addicts. Spend money on people who need help!

Please stop tilting at windmills and address the REAL crisis.

In the mean time if you want to protect kids in school? Hire some combat veterans and put them in each school. Problem solved. They won't run away.

Thank you

Edward Twohig
Essex, VT

It is not a gun issue it is a broken system issue...If all the agencies involved turned all the info on people of interest to the proper agency many of these shootings would not have happened...Enforce the rules and regulations already on the books and save time and money trying to make new ones...Thanks for listening...Rev: W.L.Knapp, E.Calais,Vt....

Sent from my iPhone. This make no sense in the State it Vermont. Our gun crime rate is one of the lowest in the country, and we have the least gun laws. This says something for us. Iam a retired Deputy Game Warden , and a retired Deputy Sheriff of 20 years. Which lets me fall under LEOSA. I carry everyday ever where, and If I can save the life's of anyone, my family or myself I will do so in any way I possible under the law. Please vote down S: 55 Thank You for your Time. Sincerely Larry A. Stahler.

From: Jeremy Hurlburt [mailto:hurlburtjeremy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S.55

I am a vermonter and i do not support the bill s.55

My name is Jesse Williams. I am a 34 year hard working man from Clarendon, VT. I am happily married and have 3 kids. I am a law abiding citizen who enjoys the great freedoms that we have here in Vermont. 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 absolutely 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. As we have seen in recent days with the school protest that have gone violent & tearing down the American flag it clearly shows it's not a gun problem but a behavioral problem. I strongly oppose this bill.
Sincerely,
Jesse Williams

Dear Dennis,

Thanks for sharing your thoughts, by in large I support efforts to keep firearms away from folks that should not have them and to not adversely impact law abiding firearm owners.

I voted against S.55, when the Universal Background Check proposal was added to the bill via a floor amendment. That bill is now in the House Judiciary Committee and as I understand it a number of amendments have been proposed to the bill. At this point I have absolutely no control over what the House might do, I hope you sent copies to your members of the House of Representatives.

I did support S.221 the extreme risk bill that I sponsored and introduced last fall. While no law can protect us fully, S.221 has the potential to make a difference in the future. The bill has had a through review in my committee, Senate Judiciary, and received a 30-0 vote in the Senate. This bill provides for an extreme risk protection order when harm is imminent in for example a case of a suicide attempt, domestic violence and even in the case of a potential mass shooting. The record in Connecticut is clear. A study of cases where firearms were seized 61% were suicide risk, 32% were deemed a risk to others and 9% were mixed. Vermont has one of the highest rates of suicide per 100,000 residents in the nation. My hope is that the House will act on S.221 as soon as possible.

My committee is currently working on H.422 which deals with removal of firearms at the scene of an alleged case of domestic violence. We are making progress on make sure that the bill does not violate the 4th amendment to the United States Constitution as many of feel that the House passed version was clearly unconstitutional.

Best,
Dick

Dick Sears
State Senator, Bennington County and Wilmington
343 Matteson Rd.
North Bennington, VT 05257
Chair Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee

From: "Dennis McCarthy" <dcmplumber@hotmail.com>
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 at 1:32:38 PM
To: "Mike Bailey" <MBailey@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: "Brian Campion" <BCampion@leg.state.vt.us>, "Richard Sears" <RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Opposition to S55

I am Dennis McCarthy a Vietnam Veteran and an NRA member. I strongly oppose Senate bill S55. This bill is the wrong approach. Mental health is the issue not guns in law abiding Vermonters hands. I respectfully ask all law abiding Vermonters oppose this bill S55.
Dennis C. McCarthy
dcmplumber@hotmail.com

I am Dennis McCarthy a Vietnam Veteran and an NRA member. I strongly oppose Senate bill S55. This bill is the wrong approach. Mental health is the issue not guns in law abiding Vermonters hands. I respectfully ask all law abiding Vermonters oppose this bill S55.

Dennis C. McCarthy
dcmplumber@hotmail.com

From: Jane Aines [mailto:janeaines@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:19 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: Gun Control Bill S55

I'm asking that you vote NO on Bill S 55. Why are Vermonters being punished for something that happened in Florida that had nothing to do with Vermonters or the NRA. This was the fault of the sheriffs department, the FBI and local police in florida. They had all the information they needed and did nothing about it. We are the safest state in the nation and you want to take everyones guns away. This is a state of hunters and this is not going to set well with them. Are all of the Democractic politicians including Bernie Sanders And Patrick Leahy going to give up there security first? At the student march which was suppose to be about honoring the 17 students that were killed it looked more like a protest with politicians there including Bernie Sanders that were being protected by armed security guards. DOUBLE STANDARD ?? We need the same protections in our schools as airports,banks,concerts etc have. Why do we leave our children unprotected ? Please leave our gun laws in Vt. alone . We do not have a problem here but you are trying to create one. If the schools are guarded and kept safe that makes it a little harder to takes guns away doesn't it ? This is why the Democratic politicians don't want to do it ! If they have a right to be protected all of us should have the right to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Again I ask that you vote no on BILL S 55 Thank you

From: Mike Falco [mailto:amcwnos8610@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:21 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject:

Hi . My name is Michael A Falco sr . I think that Vermont is a very safe state and we do not need any more guns laws for law abiding citizens . There has never been a mass shooting In Vermont.. So please do not let this happen !!!

From: Kasey Talbot [mailto:kcregina76@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:19 PM
To: SgtAtArms; Richard Sears; Joe Benning; Jeanette White; Alice Nitka; Tim Ashe; Maxine Grad; Chip Conquest; Tom Burditt; Selene Colburn; Eileen Dickinson; Kimberly Jessup; Martin LaLonde; rmorris@leg.state.vt.us; Barbara Rachelson; Gary Viens; Janssen Willhoit
Subject: No to S.55 and H.422

Dear Madams and Sirs,

As a taxpayer, voter, law abiding gun owner, sportswoman and parent, I urge you to vote down bills s.55 and H.422. these bills ever increasingly restrict law abiding gun owners of Vermont from carrying, buying, owning and using firearms in a legal and safe manner. They also violate our 2nd amendment rights to keep and bear arms as well as our 5th and 14th amendment rights to due process. Guns are not the problem, they are a tool, like a pencil, car, knife etc. Sick and immoral people carry out the crimes. You are legislating a solution where there is no gun

problem. The law abiding are just that, those who obey our current gun laws. Criminals and mentally ill are just that, law breaking disturbed people. It's a morality issue, not a gun issue, not an age issue, not a type of style of firearm issue. It has ALWAYS been wrong to harm or kill other people, your moral internal compass tells you this. We don't need more laws around that. People either understand it or they don't. The lack of firearm related gun violence in our state is comforting to me. Especially as a small framed woman who often travels alone with children in rural areas. To know I can legally travel armed is a good thing for me and my children. As well as knowing I can defend my family when law enforcement is a minimum of 40 minutes away, in good weather.
I ask you to consider to push your focus more on increasing school safety measures and protocol to ensure our children's safety and avoid punishing the law abiding gun owners or discriminating against a particular age group to be potential , safe, gun owners. More children in that age bracket, 16-21, die in vehicle related incidents than by gun violence in Vermont. But we wouldn't see children marching on the State House to push for the legal driving age to be raised to 21 now would we?
I urge you again to vote no to S.55 and H.422.

Thank you
Kasey Talbot
Newark, Vt

I'am asking that you OPPOSE S55 as it will make law abiding Citizens into Criminals We Have Had and demonstrated through a LONG history of our Responsible gun ownership it is in reality people Chipping away at our rights... NO New GUN Laws PERIOD!

Thankyou
David B. Broder

From: Dennis Riesterer [mailto:driesterer11@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 11:35 AM
To: Janet Miller
Subject: House Judiciary committee message.

Good morning, Can you please send a message to the House Judiciary Committee with regard to S.55 , specifically Rep. Lalond's amendment. "Assault" is a verb, not a noun. Or an adjective when used as in "Assault Rifle". I would ask that you consider making violent video games illegal. With today's life like video graphics, children are being de-sensitized to the value of human life. Please address the root of the problem. Guns, knifes, baseball bats, cars, can all be used as assault weapons. don't take them all away.
Regards
Dennis Riesterer
Pittsford, VT 05763
802-345-8651

From: Bruce Bourgeois [mailto:tanner522@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Janet Miller
Subject: Gun Bills

Good morning,

I'll start off by saying that I know everyone in Montpelier is being overwhelmed with people from both sides of the argument for more control. I applaud you all for what you do for our State and I also thank you for taking the abuse you don't deserve from either side.

With all that said I am asking you all in Montpelier to Vote No on any further Gun Legislation.

I was born here in Vermont, have lived, worked and raised my children here. I worked for 25 plus years in public service and have witnessed first hand how people's opinions can clash with others. There is no easy answer, but I do know that more laws on the books will correct none of the true issues facing our Country today.

I am not only an NRA Member but a Proud Life Member of the NRA. I can also say that because of that I am a responsible gun owner, and I have taught my kids sound gun safety. Today everyone looks at the NRA as if we are all evil. Its not the NRA committing these horrible shootings, and its also not what the NRA teaches.

I am a life long hunter who enjoys spending time both in the woods and on the water each year with my friends and family. The firearms I own are not just for hunting, I also have guns for self defense, and I concealed carry.

Everyone today feels that they have to point a finger at a cause, and that a new law will somehow prevent a future problem. Well you know what, that hasn't worked with Heroin addiction, or any other law that we have on the books for that matter.
People today don't want to take responsibility for their own actions or problems, its always someone else's problem or cause.

I can also point the finger. I blame the breakdown of society as a whole. I blame some of it all on the schools themselves. When my kids were in school they had no time to be kids, even over summer break they had projects to do. The pressure on kids today stress them beyond any reason.

I blame video games. My kids played them, but within reason. What do we all think the outcome will be when we take kids and let them play shooting and killing video games all day long from the age of 4. Or watch any TV show or Movie today produced showing nothing but shooting and killing. Them Hollywood has the nerve to point the finger at the NRA?

I could go on all day... but I know you have heard it all already.

I'll end by again saying thank you all for what you do and the stress you put yourselves through. I will also reiterate that there is No New Laws that you can put in place that will address what has happened or prevent it. Honestly I feel all the talk and legislation is making it worse, and putting more guns on the street. Every time gun control comes up there is a mad rush for door to buy. Lastly, you just have to look at the areas of our Country that have the highest level of gun control, they have the worst crime yet!!

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Bruce Bourgeois

My name is Barry Lawrence. I'm a retired, in good standind, law enforcement officer here in Vermont. 1.5 years with Colchester P.D., 34 years with Winooski P.D. in several capacities (Detective, Uniformed first line supervisor) and finally, 5.5 years with the Chittenden County Sheriff's Office.

I can attest, without equivocation, that I never faced a shotgun, rifle or pistol while affecting arrests. Also, can't recollect removing any firearm from a any arrested perpetrators incident to those lawful arrests. Winooski wasn't areal nice place to work in the late seventies through the eighties and nineties. It was a crime riddled city.

So, I am urging my elected representatives in Montpelier to vote no on S.55. I also demand they consider no anti-firearm legislation here in Vermont.

Martin Lalonde's bill is ludicrous and absurd. Vermont is second only to the State of Maine for the lowest violent crime rates involving firearms related crimes and deaths.

I am a law abiding citizen that posseses a fervent passipn fir firearms not only for personal protection, but, as a hobby I never could enjoy fully during my working years. I'd like to enjoy that freedom now in my retirement years as I'll finally have the time.

Vermont doesn't need draconian oppressive gun restrictions that New York presently foists on it's citizenry.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Barry Lawrence
31 Bayberry Lane
South Burlington, VT 05403

My name is Cameron Pike. I am a 26 year hard working man from Mendon, VT. I am proud that this state is one of 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 absolutely horrible what happened in Florida, and other mass shooting events 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 (S.55).** Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cameron Pike

From: Jeff Hammond [mailto:streetmachine19@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:59 PM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject: Bill S.55

SgtAtArms,

I would like to respectfully request that you do whatever is within your power to not allow bill S.55 to pass.

If the statistics at FBI.gov are true we are in the top 3-5 safest states in this country as it relates to gun deaths with the laws we have now and I don't understand how S.55 is supposed to make anything markedly better.

I personally believe that this is a very ill informed and poorly thought out bill.
I also believe that it's, ultimately, a step towards removing our second amendment rights.

Guns themselves aren't inherently good or bad it's the people using them that determine this. People that wish to harm others will find ways to do it no matter how far outside the law they have to go. I believe that most of us should be able to understand this.

Again, I ask that you do whatever is within your power to over turn this bill and not allow it to pass.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hammond
Winooski

From: bernierfamily1@yahoo.com [mailto:bernierfamily1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:14 AM
To: SgtAtArms
Subject:

To whom it may concern, I am a lifelong resident of New Hampshire, (my wife, originally from Vermont and her family who presently resides in Vermont), am asking for your consideration on a topic that needs to be addressed. I am writing in concern for my wife who travels alot into and through Vermont for her job. Most times she is leaving her place of work as one of the last into usually dark parking lots, I fear for her safety. She has a conceal carry Permit in New Hampshire and it would give her and I a piece of mind that she has a way to protect heraelf if need be. If Vermont recognized New Hampshire Conceal Carry permit holders, it would be the solution. thank you for your consideration.

Hello, I live in Swanton, VT and just wanted to express my opinion on the current S.55 bill. While I don't have an issue with increased background checks or even waiting periods, I would not want to see a bill passed that further limits the type of firearms/magazines Vermont residents can buy and possess.

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,
Scott Hohmann

From: James Benson [mailto:jimmybensonphone@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:49 AM
To: Janet Miller
Subject:

Janet
I am e-mailing you asking you to tell my elected representatives to vote no on bill s.55. I believe if everyone enforced the laws we have, and people reported what going on thats not right we will be ok. Example Fair Haven the girl reported what she saw and the incident was prevented. Thank you for your time.

James Benson
466 Quarry rd
Perkinsville Vt 05151

I strongly oppose S.55 and all other "gun bills" restricting or limiting Vermonters rights to own purchase or transfer firearms and related material (magazines, clips ammunition and components ect). This includes increased waiting periods, commercial and private transfer, Interstate reciprocity, "gun free zones", defense of self family and community.

These actions being proposed in our legislature are in direct contradiction to the Vermont state constitution, past rulings by Vermont courts, and the current majority of individual constituents.

I urge you and all the legislative body to support and enforce existing laws rather than create ineffective new laws. The root cause and danger comes from the misguided, negligent, criminal and deranged actions of individuals not from inanimate objects.

Your truly
Mark OBryan
34 Sam Webb Road
Fairfax, Vermont
(802) 309-8520

Please vote NO on S.55 this is not what Vermont is all about.Don't vote in legislation that has been tried in New York and as we all can see doesn't work

Francis L Beaudreau
22 West Meadow ct.
Pownal V.T. 05261

802-949-7080

Good morning,

As a voting resident of Chittenden 8.1 (Essex), I am writing to express my concern and strong opposition to S.55. It represents clear and drastic infringements on both the United States and Vermont Constitutions. Further, it would result in criminalizing thousands of law abiding Vermont residents while producing no measurable results regarding safety.

No on S.55

Thank you,
Kevin DeCausemacker

Hello,

My name is Dustin Dattilio from Bridport, Vermont. I've lived in Vermont my whole life and was raised in a family of hunters and outdoorsmen. Being raised in a family of hunters, I was raised around firearms. I was always taught how to safely and respectfully handle a firearm as a young boy.

With that being said, a gun is only as dangerous as the person controlling it. Evil people will always find a way to do evil things. Stricter gun control laws in a state without a gun issue will only effect law - abiding gun owners, which is something we can all agree on. Don't restrict our gun rights because of criminals - criminals do not follow the law.

I am requesting that you oppose S.55.

Thank you,
Dustin

I am currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Army. **Would like my voice to be heard when I sat "No on S.55." Should it pass I will have little inclination to move home to Vermont after my tour of duty.**

Very Respectfully,
Jason Kaplan
Sergeant, U.S. Army

Hello my name is Russell Johnson, I am opposed to Bill S.55. These bills are only punishing law abiding citizens.
We need to enforce the laws on the books and punish criminals, no plea agreements full punishment.

My family (Stephen Heard) literally fought along side George Washington to give us what we have today, and to see the Constitution of The United States chipped away at is very depressing.

Thank You for Your Time
Russell Logan Heard Johnson
520 South Street
Poultney, VT 05764

No on S.55.
Rich Weinberg
Jericho, VT

From: Adam Damon [mailto:addamon@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 10:06 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: No S 55

You guys had to go and ruin it with all of those amendments. I don't mind the high taxes in Vermont because of the many freedoms I enjoy. I supported raising the age to purchase and background checks outside of immediate family.

Absolutely no on this ridiculous piece of legislation.

I'll push to vote out any legislator in my district that supports this and then I will vote with my feet if it passes. I'm a highly qualified math teacher with 10 years of experience and two masters degrees-- I can literally get a job in any state I want;

-Add

From: jeffmouse123 [mailto:jeffmouse123@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:56 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S.55

Don't new york Vermont we have no issues but you will create them with this leave it alone if its not broke don't fix it

I urge you to vote no to the new restrictions being proposed on firearms.

Vermont prides itself on being one of the safest states in the union. I would contribute that to a few things. The community values that the state as a whole holds. The outstanding work from and by our Law Enforcement officers and the responsible people of the state.

Vermont gun owners are some of, if not the most responsible and safe owners and users of firearms in the country if not the world. Violence in this state where firearms are used is limited and isolated.

Regulating the types of firearms that responsible people of this state can possess and purchase will have zero impact on acts of violence where a firearms is/was used.

I would urge you to be sensible about firearm issues. Look at the statistics from other states who have passed such legislation. It has had limited impact on the acts of violence where a firearm was used. That WILL stand true for this state.

Limiting our freedoms will only split this small state and will divide the community feeling that this state holds dear.

I understand that in the larger communities there is more of a push for this. However I would encourage you to reach out to those small towns and isolated communities. Talk to the blue collar working class. Talk to the sportsman, the hunters, and the shooters. Visit a local sporting goods store on Saturday morning. These are not the type of people that you will find the need to regulate their use of firearms. Yet these are the people that any such legislation will effect.

The select few people who commit acts of violence with a firearm will still find a way to do that regardless or any regulations put in place.

Be smart about this.

Do not limit our right to own purchase and possess ANY type of firearm.

I would also urge you to encourage public hearings in regards to any such legislation that calls for the regulation of firearms in any capacity.

This is Vermont not New York.

Thank you.

Michael Arace.

Londonderry VT.

From: Flori Hanson [mailto:florihanson@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:35 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: Gun law

Please let the senators and representatives from rutland know that Maurice and Florence Hanson request a no vote on S55 and any gun amendment.

Thank you

From: Richard Ley [mailto:cycle73@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:32 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: Opposed to new gun laws

To Maxine Grad and the rest of this committee..

I am totally opposed to any new gun laws that restrict the gun rights of the hard-working tax-paying law-abiding gun owners in the state of Vermont

The detrimental effect it will have on providing safety for family members should be a major concern

We are the safest state in the nation and we should be held high and the rest of the nation should be following the lead of Vermont

I would like to go on record as opposing S.55 as I believe it violates both the 2nd Amendment and Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution.

Vermont has always been one of the two safest places to live in the US, and I see no need for more repressive laws.

Thank you,
George Scotten
White River Jct

The efforts by our legislators will do absolutely nothing to better protect our children or society as a whole from evil or deranged individuals bent on causing mayhem. Criminals do not obey the law, they find ways around it. Again, if you are truly sincere in wanting to protect children or society from these individuals, then the security at schools needs to be increased, train and arm Good people to help protect them. These laws that are being proposed do absolutely nothing except chip away at honest law abiding citizens Second Amendment rights and our ability to protect ourselves and families. As I also stated, you are protected at your work, Federal employees are protected at their places of work, politicians are protected with armed security.

Explain to me why we cannot do the same for our children, if you are sincerely concerned about them?

When a drunk driver kills innocent people why is there not an outcry to ban vehicles? After all, the vehicle is the tool that is used. It's because Common Sense tells us that it is the drunk drivers fault, not the vehicles fault. Why is it so difficult for educated people to understand and apply the same Common Sense to firearms?

How much money has Michael Bloomberg and his Gun Sense Vermont organization put in all of your pockets?

Respectfully,
Matt Godin

3 Stowell Street
Saint Albans, VT 05478

Hi my name is scott whitaker amd i am a jay resident. My family and myself are against S55. No new gun laws!!! We will not settle, we will not find common ground, we will stand up for our born 2nd amendment right. Guns are a non issue in the state of vermont we are not criminals and we will not be treated like one. STOP S55. no new guns laws!!!

Judiciary Committee,

I would like to ask that the Vermont Legislator vote no to the S.55 bill.

Thank you,
Chris Palmer

From: Jennifer Neddo [mailto:jneddo76@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:44 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S.55

I'm a registered voter in East Montpelier and I oppose S.55. We have some of the least restrictive gun laws in the country and one of the lowest rates of gun violence, this tells me that the laws we have currently are working, whereas places with incredibly strict gun laws have much higher rates of gun violence, why try to fix something that isn't broken in Vermont? Thank you, Jennifer Neddo

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Dear The House Judiciary Committee and whoever else this may concern,

I oppose the bill S.55 and any new gun control and you should oppose it too.

This and any other gun control law would destroy us and our rights as Americans.

Thank you,
Alyssa White

From: handicritter75 [mailto:handicritter75@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:16 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: Freedom

Vermont used to be the freest state in the country and now you guys are ending it by trying to employ New York State gun laws what comes next

---

From: Thomas Eckrote [mailto:tle92949@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:43 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: No S.55

I am texting to ask Vermont legislators to vote no on amendment s.55. It will not deter criminals from getting guns.

Good Day,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts to our legislative process.

As native Vermonter's of many generations, we are seriously troubled by the lack of understanding by seemingly well educated people about the facts surrounding gun issues in our state. It is the person behind the gun and the circumstances of why they have access that remains the problem.

Having retired from the Vermont State Police after 30 years of service, including running the statewide Criminal Division, I am even more amazed that the average citizen, student, or legislator, doesn't appear to understand that criminals and those with mental instability don't have any problems getting there hands on guns and no law is going to change this. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. I can recall many more homicides that were committed in Vermont by a shovel, hammer, knives, or blunt force then the gun, magazines, bump stocks, semi automatic's, or so called "assault rifles".

All law abiding people, of any walk of life are devastated by the carnage of any school shooting or other innocent taking of a human life, however we need to address the cause of the problem and it is not the gun.

Bruce and Pauline Lang
Essex, Vt.
883-9358

Hello,

I'm writing you to ask that you pass the word along that the judiciary committee vote down the bill s.55. It is written by emotion which are is the worse way to bring something to law. Vermont's gun laws are fine the way they are, and adding anything more will not prevent people fears from coming true. Laws will NEVER prevent crime, if that was not the case this would never have happened. Murder, against the law. Drinking and driving, against the law and yet there are people in this state who have been convicted of it several times and still drive around drunk when the LAW has revoked that privledge. Heroin is against the law yet it to has found it's way into our schools. Texting and driving is against the law and yet it is still the HIGHEST cause of death amongst these kids that you are trying to protect but there has never been brought up to ban cell phones from kids under 18. Social media is the most unmonitored thing in these children lives and is the largest medium for bullying amongst other things and yet there is no underage ban on that. There is 10s of millions of these scary guns in this country and even more high capacity magazines, not law is gonna change that. Nor is a new law gonna change the fact that crimals dont follow the laws. So again I ask for a no vote on s.55. Spent back, clear the emotions, and figure out something that " puts boots on the ground " for a change. Actually be physically involved. Push the federal government for the extra needed funding to allow law enforcement to enforce the already existing laws.
Thank you
Tim Soutiere
Jeffersonville vt

Hello

I am a life-long resident of Vermont (57 years). Having been raised in Charlotte, and then moving to Addison County to raise a family.

One of the beauties of this state is the way we lead the country with our many freedoms involving private firearm ownership.
The main reason I continue to reside in Vermont is the low crime rate we enjoy. I believe that our minimal restrictions on firearm ownership are directly responsible for that low rate.

When I think of the possibility that our elected officials would place restrictions on our legal freedoms based on the actions of a few criminals, I begin to wonder how far they would go to make us all "safe".

I could go on about the Constitution and Second Amendment.
I could recite the old saying about guns not killing people.
I could reflect on the many regimes in world history that first restricted private gun ownership and then murdered millions of defenseless citizens.
I can even point out that, in places with much stricter firearm regulations, there is higher crime.

But, I question what is really achieved by restricting our freedoms:
Will we all be safer when you interfere with our ability to defend ourselves?
Further restrictions placed on the Law-abiding only strengthens the resolve of the law-breakers, see above.

I might get on board with raising the age requirement for purchasing firearms, but I also think that the minimum age to serve in the military, drive cars, and vote, should increase equally.
If we cannot trust anyone under 21 years of age to drink, or own guns, it's only "common-sense".

Guns are not the demon in the room.

If the world were rid of every firearm tomorrow, evil would still be here, just unrestrained.

Please **VOTE NO on S.55**, *and any other laws further restricting Vermonter's Rights*.

Respectfully

Ronald G Swenor
1549 Fuller Mountain Road
North Ferrisburgh VT 05473
802-349-5938

Please vote NO on S55 !
Thank you !
Devon Craig , Plainfield , ,
VT

Please put on record that I do not want any new gun laws, it is terrible what happens with these shootings but it is less then 1% of all gun owners in this country who use guns to harm people, I don't understand why good law abiding people should have to give up things or objects for something a bad person did , that to me is like punishing a child for something a bad kid did in the next state , we don't see people taking cars,cell phones, booze, knives, matches and lighters, or any other thing that has killed people ,if we did this every time we would all have pretty much nothing and live in a bubble , theres far to many guns out there now to go banning semi autos or even magazines, the only ones who will have them are the bad guys if you do this .
SAY NO TO S55 OR ANY OTHER GUN LAW AND START UPHOLDING THE LAWS WE ALREADY HAVE FOR A CHANGE.

Thank Dennis Thomson sr
Westminster vt

No, do NOT pass S-55. This is the exact reason there is and will be so much resistances on the right. We give an inch they take a mile. Most gun owners dont mind most of these bills but this bill is absolutely not right. S-55 infringes on all Vermonters rights. It puts a bunch of "non scary firearms" in a ban.
This bill should NOT pass

Sincerely
Rick Flanders

From: cowboyup3192002@yahoo.com [mailto:cowboyup3192002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 12:10 AM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: No on bill S.55

As a Vermont that carries a concealed handgun & a Vermont citizen I would like my voice heard & oppose any new gun "regulations" that's being talked about right now in Montpelier. The legislation that Rep. Martin LaLonde of South Burlington wants to introduced an amendments to S.55 which will mirror New York's disastrous and

infamous SAFE Act. Vermont is one of the if not the safest & as of now gun friendly. All this talk about gun safety is only making it more complicated for law abiding gun owners like myself. You could make evey law known to man yet in the end it will be the bad guys that will have them & guys like myself won't because we would be following the law. They have strict laws about drinking & drinking yet 28 people die a day from driving while drunk in a motor vehicle accident. There's strict laws about drugs & yet drug poor into Vermont like crazy. The point I'm trying to make is it's not the cars fault that killed anyone it was the driver driving drunk just like it's not the gun that killed them innocent people it was the person pulling the trigger. We don't need more gun laws, we need better mental health checks. Please say no to S.55 please share this with all my representatives & others not in my district (I'm from Rutland) Please help keep Vermont a safe State & a please let's keep Vermont a gun friendly State. Thank you for you're time & God Bless you & God Bless America.

Henry

From: Larose, Eric [mailto:Eric_Larose@comcast.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:28 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S55

Why in the world would we adopt gun laws from states that are absolute failures? We have some of the lowest gun related crime in the country. I am totally against most of the things in this bill. People can be armed at 18 and fight for their country but not be able to buy a gun?

To the House Judiciary Committee vote no on S.55.

Thank you,
Stephen Rowe of Essex Junction

I oppose S55 Brien Lemois Irasburg VT

From: dustinhockey [mailto:dustinhockey@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:14 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S55 oposse this bill

Hello, My name is Dustin I would like to give you a little back ground on myself before I get into why I am sending you this email. I have lived in Vermont my whole life, I am 1 of 8 kids in my family I am the second youngest. I have more then 14 Nieces and Nephews Combined From the age of 25 all the way down to 6 months. I have a son that is 3 years old and I am avid outdoors man I love to Hunt Fish and Shot Guns. I spent 6 years in the Vermont Army National Guard as a Helicopter repair and will be turning 33 this year coming and have seen Vermont change a great deal since I was in school and so has the country in a whole. But what fears me more then anything is being one of those parents that gets the call that my son was killed by an active shooter at his school or one of my siblings getting the call and me losing a Niece or Nephew because we are not protecting them like we should. We are never going to be able to keep guns out of bad peoples hands. But we can have Armed Guards at schools, we can have Controlled

Entrances and Metal Detectors just like at a Court House. MORE GUN CONTROL IS NOT THE OPTION BAD GUYS DON'T CARE ABOUT RULES OR SIGNS They only understand Brute force how many suspects do you think would walk in the front door of a school if they were meet by someone willing to stop them. There is a reason why they are not shooting up Court Houses and State Building there is armed guards metal detectors and a controlled entrances. The suspect in the last school shooting dropped his weapon and jumped in with other students to get out of the school so he did not have a stand off with police. Then later was apprehended with no confrontation with the police because they had there service weapons and were not afraid to do what they had to do in order to keep the peace. I am not saying that Armed Guards are going to always make a difference or the other deterrents. But as Father I would rather know that is waiting at the front of the school I am bringing my son to then nothing. People say what about teachers who are able to Open or Conceal Carry I think that if they have been through the right training and feel they could make a difference why not let them be the ACE in the hole. Also what about flight marshal type people in schools. under cover blended in with the staff they have saved many of lifes on planes in the past. There is so many people out there with military or law enforcement background that are teachers coaching staff why not use an asset that was trained by some of the best. I told my wife last night if there was a job opening for School Armed Guards I would be signing up in a heart beat and I know many of people that I served with would as well. I just don't want to fear for my child's safety dropping them off to school were it is suppose to be a fun and learning environment. As for some of the new laws you are going to be voting on in the near future I just want to reaching out in regards to the right to own a AR-15 there is respectful people that own them and use them in the right way but I am not against limiting this Armalite Rifle within reason I use mine for recreational shooting competitions where i use a 30 round magazine and do not own one with higher capacity and when I am varmint hunting I use a 5 round mag just like the Vermont law states for maximum magazine capacity while hunting. We should be able to own them but there needs to be limitations on Accessories and modifications within reason.

Universal Back Ground Checks: I Feel that this a good thing. Having this will protect Myself if the gun was used in a crime after I have sold it to someone. Just because it looks nice a the gun shop does not mean that you are going to like it when you get out and shoot it. Plus just because someone looks like a decent person does not mean that they are. I am 100% for this but there needs to be a way that does not cost alot of additional money to sell a gun to someone, Especially if we have to use a Licensed FFL that means they are going to want to charge us a fee for the transfer of ownership I do not mind paying a little something for the peace of mind but it needs to be standardized across the board.

Age Restriction: I feel that unless you are 21 years of age you should not be able to purchase an AR-15 just like a handgun.

Bump Stocks:As for bump stocks I feel there is no need for them. Full auto or as close to Full auto was designed for Military use and If there is need for that rate of fire it should just be a Full auto version.

Magazine Restriction: I Feel there is no place For Large Capacity Magazines over 30 rounds for the AR-15 in the civilian world and even the military does not use any thing bigger then 30 rounds for there version of the AR-15 the M4A1 or M16 at least that is what i was issued while i did 6 years of duty in the Vermont Army National Guard.

Thank you for your time.
G Dustin Bates

To whom this email may concern....
Hello, my named is Michael Prichard. I am an Eagle Scout and a very concerned citizen. I believe that the **S.55. Bill banning semiautomatic firearms and high capacity magazines and giving extended wait periods on firearm purchases alongside other ludicrous declarations is a very poor idea indeed.**
Might I say that even "firearms" manufactured before 1898 (of which some were semi-automatic) are not considered firearms by the federal government standards and thus can be shipped via postal service. May I say furthermore (Bill S.55.) would only take/restrict firearms from responsible law-abiding citizens whom use to aid in protecting themselves

and their families as well as other people to whom can't protect themselves from criminals and potential terrorists. My reasoning is thus... criminals are criminals you can't expect criminals to respect your laws and Locks only keep out good people. If you care and Respect the United States of America and what it stands and if you care about all the concerned citizens to whom look to you for wisdom you will turn down (Bill S.55.)

My name is River Payne. I am 20 years old and from Cornwall VT. I am a law abiding citizen who enjoys the many freedoms that Vermont has to offer. I enjoy the fact that Vermont is one of the safest places to live. The new bill S.55 in no way is going to change Vermont's crime rates in any way. By restricting law abiding Vermonters of what they can and can't own, such as magizines that can hold more than 10 rounds, or rifles that have certain features, all you're doing is hurting the people who abide by the law. Criminals, and people who will become criminals, don't care about what the law says they can own. S.55 and it's recent amendments are only fixes to a non existent problem in Vermont, and are unbelievably unconstitutional. The second amendment of the United States constitution states it pretty clear, the right of the people to keep and bare arms shall not be infringed. This bill is a clear infringement on how people can bare arms. Please honor the constitution you swore to protect and uphold and please be my voice and my representative in the government and strongly refuse and oppose this bill. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

River Payne

I am a 35 year old female hunter. I am writing this in hopes that you will oppose bill S.55. This is a knee jerk response to the school shooting in Florida. Guns have existed for as long as we all can remember. It wasn't until recently they began using them for mass destruction. Limiting the guns will only hurt law abiding citizens like myself. If someone wants to cause harm they will find a way. Again please consider opposing this bill.
Thank you for your time.
Amber Perry

From: Scott Laberge [mailto:slaberge85@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:37 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: No to S.55

I am respectfully against S.55. Criminals do not follow the laws so this bill will only infringe on the hard working Vermonters like myself who enjoy the responsible use of guns for recreation and to protect our families. I realize that Vermont has one of the lowest death by gun rates. If you take out suicide and police shootings we are even lower. The amount of crimes and assaults prevented by guns is a lot higher than estimated because many of these situations never get documented. I wish we would work on securing and protecting our kids and students on the ground level. Starting with enhanced security like when the airports reacted to 9/11. This would be the most effective way to protect our children in schools. It is sad we have guards at banks with

guns and guns protect our politicians but we let our children go to schools with gun free zones which attract criminal cowards knowing know one will be able to fight back until the police arrive. The only reason I voted for Phil Scott is because he said Vermont does not have a problem with gun violence so he doesn't need to push gun laws. He will never get my vote again because I feel like he stabbed me in the back and misrepresented my vote.

Hello you may not know me but I know that you will be voting on many different things tomorrow about our gun laws in the state of Vermont. I have lived in Vermont all my life and have grown up around firearms/hunters/trappers/gun enthusiasts/etc. I respectfully hope you'll take into consideration of opposing the bill. It it a fantastic and freeing opportunity to live in Vermont and have my guns in my home to protect me, hunt with, skeet shoot, and even explain to others the safeties of handling and operating such an amazing invention. I am an 18 year old girl who is enrolled to be a student at Unity college in the fall to be taking conservation law enforcement to hopefully one day be a successful game warden. I grew up with guns throughout my whole life as everyone I know loves to hunt and loves to have skeet shooting parties. Many of the people I have grown up with carry for their own safety and the people around themselves safety. Many of my friends and peers believe that gun laws should be changed but when I ask them what should be changed they don't know a single law or restriction. Many people today want greater safety in schools and this I agree as well but I don't think it should oppose our second amendment. I do believe that the gun laws in Vermont should not be changed as it will change many people's lives and it will frankly not serve as a solution to any of the problems we are having today. I greatly appreciate you taking the time to read this email and hope you consider everything I have said.

Sincerely,
A very concerned citizen of Vermont
Sophia Boisvert

My name is River Payne. I am 20 years old and from Cornwall VT. I am a law abiding citizen who enjoys the many freedoms that Vermont has to offer. I enjoy the fact that Vermont is one of the safest places to live. The new bill S.55 in no way is going to change Vermont's crime rates in any way. By restricting law abiding Vermonters of what they can and can't own, such as magizines that can hold more than 10 rounds, or rifles that have certain features, all you're doing is hurting the people who abide by the law. Criminals, and people who will become criminals, don't care about what the law says they can own. S.55 and it's recent amendments are only fixes to a non existent problem in Vermont, and are unbelievably unconstitutional. The second amendment of the United States constitution states it pretty clear, the right of the people to keep and bare arms shall not be infringed. This bill is a clear infringement on how people can bare arms. Please honor the constitution you swore to protect and uphold and please be my voice and

my representative in the government and strongly refuse and oppose this bill. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

River Payne

From: Cory Curtis [mailto:corycurtis1981@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:20 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: H.55

I believe that bill h.55 is very bad! I strongly oppose the bill and feel that the committee should also as it violates the rights of the people! There are a couple good points in the bill but I feel that the bad far outweighs the good! Our firearms are not the problem the people are due to bad parenting nowadays! Thank you and please vote no on h.55!

From: Crossman, David [mailto:David.Crossman@greenmountainpower.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:19 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S55

This is completely in-constitutional. These people need to get their heads out of their ass. I have been a legal, law abiding gun owner and a patriot since I was old enough to hold a gun in my hands. This needs to be voted down immediately. This is not far to us law abiding citizens who respect the law and respect firearms the way our for fathers intended. I'm proud to be a Vermonter and one good reason is because of the lenient gun laws we have. We have the lowest gun violence in the country and should not be compared to New York. Please for the love of god and all things that are good and decent vote this down.

Hello this is Jake Sargent, I am emailing you to oppose this new bill S.55. I am 24 years old, an avid sportsman, and I am deeply troubled by the new found panic over guns, ecspecially the panic and "bad omen" over military style firearms. Need I remind you, guns do not kill people, people kill people. Instead of banning and putting huge restrictions on inanimate objects, we need to focus on mental health care and the seriousness of offenses across the board. This bill needs to be opposed due to its MAJOR inefficiency to uphold my second amendment rights. I feel as though sportsman like myself are suffering from this proposed bill rather than the people that it is supposed to affect and restrict. We need to find a better way to fix America and this state. Restricting my RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS is NOT, and I repeat NOT the way to go about handling this. So I oppose this bill and I strongly suggest there is deeper thought into the current status of our culture as a whole country and community. Thank you for your time, and I do NOT support bill S.55.

Sincerely, a law abiding young man from Vermont.

From: Vermont [mailto:vermont324@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:52 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: S 55

The State of Vermont doesn't need one more reason for people to leave the state. Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts have all passed gun control and tax legislation that has people fleeing. Vermont has laws that are very attractive to sportsmen and outdoorsmen. Now is not the time for knee jerk legislation like S 55.

Please forward to all members of the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Matthew Rosenberg. I am a 33 year hard working man from Chittenden, VT. I am happily married and have 3 young boys. I am a law abiding citizen who enjoys the great freedoms that we have here in Vermont, an extreme opposite of what I grew up with in New York. 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 absolutely 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 were added to a bill that I already thought was unnecessary and overreaching. I ask you as members of the Judiciary Committee and my voice in government that you will strongly oppose this bill. Please do not make criminals out of law abiding citizens, which is what this bill will do if put into law. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rosenberg

There is absolutely no cause for this attack on the 2nd amendment. VT is safe now and will remain so without this unbelievable assault on our rights. I adamantly oppose any new regulations including the proposed S. 55.

Joshua Jones
Brattleboro, VT

From: Kalee Murphy [mailto:kmur91@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:28 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: Gun Laws S.55

I say no to s.55 !

From: Wendell Johnson [mailto:Red_j@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:26 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: H55

Please please please do not turn the safest state in the United States into a mirror of the draconian state of NY! Please!

To Whom it May Concern,
As a law abiding Vermont gun owner, I urge you to vote NO on Bill S.55.
If you truly want to make our school's safer, focus on Mental Health and change Vermont's law's so someone making threats and showing signs of mental instability can be force-ably evaluated and if necessary hospitalized so they can get the help they need before they hurt someone else or themselves. Currently it is almost impossible to get someone with mental health issues into treatment without their consent which is a major issue since most people with mental health issues have no insight into the fact that they need help.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jim B. Densmore

Kimberly,
I respectfully request you vote no on S55 and any of the amendments to that bill. Vermont does not need New York style, Michael Bloomberg pushed, anti-gun laws. We do not have a gun problem in Vermont. As a member of the Middlesex Fire Department and FAST Squad for 14+ years and the hundreds of calls I have gone to, I have only been to one gun shooting call and that was a suicide by a senior citizen who had already been to the hospital several times for failing health. On the other hand I have been to numerous vehicle crashes where speed and/or distracted driving were the causes. And any day of the school week I can go to Gallison Hill Road and watch students driving from U-32 while texting or some other cell phone communication. There is no call to ban high speed cars or banning cell phones in cars

or raising the age to purchase a cell phone to 21. Just look at how many deaths and injuries have been caused by cell phone use while driving in Vermont and there is no call to restrict them other than if a person is seen using one, which is easy to hide. It is time to stop blaming guns and lawful gun owners when someone uses a gun in the commission of a crime. The person who commits the crime should be held responsible. We don't blame car manufactures of high speed cars when their cars are involved in a car crash, or hoodie manufacturers when hoodies are used when a crime is committed while wearing one, which seems to happen every time a convenience store is robbed. So why blame lawful gun owners and gun manufacturers when a gun is used. This is just not common sense, it is faulty logic and just a page from the Michael Bloomberg anti-gun and anti-Second Amendment crowd.
So please vote no on S55 and all of the amendments added to it.Thank you for your time.Sincerely,Jeff Koonz

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Mike and the
House Judiciary Committee

I am a resident of Randolph Vt and would respectively ask the House to reject Bill S55 or any new gun laws.
We have gun laws in place that work when enforced.

Thank you,
Robyn Richards

From: Simon Riley [mailto:rileysimon076@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:06 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: No on S.55

Vermont is a peaceful state, S.55 will infringe or take 2nd amendment right from the law-abiding citizen.

1.Assault Weapon Ban,
"Assault Weapon" is a political word used for scary people, It won't prevents the mass-shooting or reduce crime because it only bans semi-auto firearms that look scary the of most of the gun death in the United States, It's handguns

2.High-Capacity Magazine Ban

-Virginia-Tech Shooting, 2007
The gunman uses 2 handguns (.22lr Handgun, 9x19mm handgun) with bunch 10 rounds capacity magazines and kill 32 people.

- Columbine High School Shooting, 1999 (After Assault Weapon Ban by President Bill Clinton)

The 2 gunmen used 1 handgun, 2 shotguns, 1 9x19mm semi-auto rifle with 10 round-capacity magazines and they kill 13 people.

- Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting, 2018
The gunman used an AR-15 rifle with 10 rounds capacity magazines and kill 17 people.

https://ijr.com/2018/03/1072015-nikolas-cruz-high-capacity-magazines/

I'm all for Universal-Background Check and Bump-Fire Stock Ban sir.

I hope you will reconsider S.55 with respect to **The House Judiciary Committee**

From American's Gun Owner who believed in the Balanced Gun laws that shall not infringe the 2nd Amendment right.

As a long time hunter and believer in our constitution I am truly frightened by the attempt of certain legislators to curtail law abiding citizens of their rights under the second amendment. No law proposed is directed at the evil perpetrators in our society. Please vote no for S.55 and any other legislation directed at law abiding gun owning citizens of Vermont. Thank you, Michael Pass of West Haven Vermont.

Please vote NO on S.55. There's no need for such knee-jerk, useless legislation here in Vermont. Let's stay focused on the problem, not additional legislation that only impacts the many law-abiding gun owners in the State.

Respectfully,
Steve Thomas

Hello.

As a very concerned citizen of this state I urge you to oppose S.55 on all fronts it will do nothing to prevent any type of gun violence and again only burdens law abiding individuals the only people that follow any laws.

Making all these unnecessary laws mean nothing to criminals they do not follow law anyways so why is our state house trying to make law abiding folks criminals?

The due process issue of some of the other bills is lacking in a clear violation of all of our constitutional rights the first time officers are allowed to remove property from anyone without a judges order will result in a immediate law suit on the State again wasting tax payers resources.

I support the mental restriction bill in its original form and basically anyone I have spoke to has felt the same. But this should not turn into a free for all whole sale sell out of our rights because of heavily partisan lines that sadly have the advantage in our state house. And shamelessly use children as pawns to further their agenda.

Vermont is one of the safest places anywhere and is because mutual respect amoungest its citizens, Please do not disrespect peoples rights that have done no wrong as its a clear a disrespect to them.

Sincerely.

John Kenyon.

I am very oppose to S55 as it poses a major attack on my gun rights as a Vermont and US citizen. I also oppose S221 in it's modified state. I had previously agrred with it before it got changed. Sincerely, Raoul Beaulieu (North hero)

Dear Politicians,

I am a law abiding, gun owning Vermonter. I am also a member of the NRA. Stop blaming me and my guns for your massive and epic government failures. How about we pass a law that says if the local police come to your house 39 times and the F.B.I. is notified twice then you can take their guns.

We are NOT New York! "The gods of the valley are not the gods of the hills, and you shall understand it." -Ethan Allen

Why don't you spend your time and resources on an actual problem, like the 64,000 Americans that will overdose this year or the 45,000 that will commit suicide, both of which have personally affected me and everyone in this state.

"I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" -Patrick Henry

For the sake of peace, liberty and justice I respectfully ask you to vote no on S.55

Sincerely,

Mitchell S. Morgan

Hello Mike,
My name is Mitchell Tillotson. I am a resident of Montgomery Vermont currently, but have been a life long Vermonter.

In a message to my Representative I asked she vote no on this gun legislation. Apparently that didn't work.

With over 24 million AR-15s currently in legal circulation in this country many would think this has become the most popular, and most deadly weapon. However it's not even the most common firearm in the small number of gun caused deaths in this country. Obviously we know the unexpected death of any human can be traumatic, maddening, and saddening to those close to the victim. It's is here we as humans ask 'why' and try to place blame. The gun isn't the answer though.

Of the 13 to 15,000 gun deaths every year, a small percentage of which includes police shootings, negligent, and accidental discharges, most are not committed by AR-15s. Actually in most cases they are not even committed by AR-15 owners. The weapon is taken from the owner without their consent or knowledge.

This of course speaks to a need for better education around gun safety, and responsibility. We need gun owners to take care of their weapons, lock them away when they are not in the same vicinity. But an out right ban, or higher regulations for legal gun owners just doesn't make logical sense.

There are more serious things in this country that we need to tackle. There are many other death causing events that need to be addressed.

Here in the state on Vermont we continue to see an increase in Motor vehicle deaths, despite increased regulations, and vehicle safety features. Nation wide we see more deaths from drunk drivers than guns despite the heavy laws against such activity. Also nationally we see 700,000 people die each year from heart disease, which is an almost entirely preventable disease. The list could on to describe more things that are way more deadly than guns.

I urge you to consider shutting this bill down. Gun control, especially in the state of Vermont is unnecessary, inconsiderate, and a completely emotional response to events. Data shows this would not help.

Please feel free to contact me for more information on gun data, or questions you may have.

I believe most people in this state don't want to see this bill go through.

Thank you,
Mitchell Tillotson
802-696-9988 -cell

802-326-2043- home

From: dakota.aither [mailto:dakota.aither@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:15 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: Gun rights

i would strongly recommend not messing with our gun rights . Its time you all start doing your jobs and stop trying to push the hard working people of this state out . You have no rights taking away our gun rights nor do you have the right to mess with the constitution of vermont

Sir,

I am a Vermonter and a proud one. I am a law enforcement officer and a proud one. I would like to voice my opposition to S. 55. Other solutions should be discussed than the knee jerk reaction of this committee considering this bill. Protect schools first.

Francis Tully
12 Bay View Drive
Saint Albans, VT 05478

Hi my name is Adam labatt and i strongly urge you nice people to not put the proposed bill into place. Vermont has always had one of the lowest crime rates of any state in the country, this has a big impact on vermonts 2nd amendment gun carry laws. Once you pull guns out of the hands of the thousands of law abiding citizens you leave all of us defenseless. Gun laws will not change any gun violence anywhere in the country. Criminals dont obey the law. Look at Detroit, the entire city is a gun free zone and so many people die. Once you create the atmosphere for crime it will skyrocket, criminals will always be just that. I feel safer knowing im walking around town, any store, or out in the field when I or even a complete stranger is carrying a firearm. Its a people problem we have, not a gun problem. SAY NO TO S.55

From: Patrick Tingle [mailto:pat.tingle@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:13 PM
To: Mike Bailey
Subject: No to S.55

I encourage you to vote no on S.55

Please pass this on to the Judiciary Committee. Please vote No on Bill S.55 and the LaLonde Amendment.
Thank you
Donny McManus from Poultney Vt
registered Vt voter.

Please vote No on S.55.
We don't need these changes that will impact the legal, law abiding citizens of Vermont while not stopping illegal activity and criminals.

The semi-automatic rifle with standard magazines are NOT assault rifles by design and are in many lawful gun owner's hunting collections, mine included.

Barrie Etherington
Pittsford, VT

Please Sir,

Do not burden the people of Vermont with the convoluted and unintelligible gun legislation as used in NY state. NY has notoriously over reacted to every gun issue, or bill presented in Albany.

Unlike NY, we have folks who need their rifles to hunt and fill the freezer for the winter. At about 640,000 population, we have the lowest score of gun violence for any state. Is there a knee jerk reaction needed in Vermont? I sincerely doubt it. We do not have a population of millionaires who can feed and clothe themselves without much concern. Every dime is essential to Vermonters just to live in the current economy in this state.

I saw out takes of bills that would send police to confiscate your weapons just on the say so of a person who says you threatened them. Hearsay is not evidence! This becomes he said, she said. That nonsense is not fit for discussion with respect to firearms. All of my children have been trained in firearm safety since the 7th grade. We have had no incidents in the family.

Waiting periods of 2 weeks is long enough for law enforcement to push the buttons and look up anyones criminal record. I've done it as a dispatcher for the county Sheriff's Office and it is quite simple. Currently the info is stored on a person's driver's license. There is no need to change that system unless you can find flaws in something that works.

Lastly, I enjoy target shooting with my older sons, as well as small competitions. Rarely will I hunt. If I will not eat it, then I don't shoot it. Grandpa taught me and my children learned from me. At 70 years of age and still able to shoot in the 270's is not too shabby. I particularly like the convenience of the AR frame. It can be made with .22, like we learned on as kids; up to .556 nato for hunting.

Can this legislature seriously demand we grandfathers give up our 'right' of passage as to teaching the young ones to shoot? Do I have to give up because of my age? Will I be denied a pistol for self protection? Please, think before you act. A lot of us depend on hunting, and others in sport shooting.

My sincere respects

Rev. Fred Freitas
Bennington, VT. 05201