

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD  
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Dear Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of our Vermont members, I respectfully ask you to oppose S.55. This bill contains several provisions which are deeply troubling. S.55 is nothing more than an assault on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners. It would do nothing to improve public safety.

Magazine capacity restrictions do not work as criminals, by definition, do not follow the law. It is unrealistic to think that criminals are going to commit their acts with reduced capacity magazines. The only thing this legislation will do is put law-abiding gun owners in jeopardy in self defense situations. This is the reason law enforcement and military do not carry 10-round magazines. What if a citizen is faced with an armed criminal attack from multiple assailants? Finally, this restriction represents a gun ban as several handguns are manufactured with standard capacity magazines exceeding this limit. Because lower round magazines are not available for particular models, the bill would render those firearms illegal, depriving Vermonters of lawfully owned private property.

Similarly, "universal background checks" will not work and will add additional burdens on law-abiding gun owners. The vast majority of recent tragic shootings demonstrate that background checks are ineffective because most of these murderers had passed a background check. Attention would be better placed on actually improving the checks and mental health reporting. The real burden falls on law-abiding gun owners who must now pay for costly background checks on private transfers. Federally licensed firearm dealers in nearby states like New Jersey and New York routinely charge \$100 per transfer. And this of course will do nothing to prevent criminals from obtaining guns on the black market.

Raising the age for long gun purchases to 21 is also problematic. This will deprive an entire class of legal adults of their constitutional right to bear arms as they now cannot buy any type of firearm. This bill is also a devastating blow to the state's young sportsmen and is out-of-touch with Vermont traditions as witnessed by the overwhelming opposition to this legislation. Again, we would respectfully ask you to oppose this bill as it simply goes way too far and will do nothing to address crime or public safety. This bill is nothing more than a solution in search of a problem as Vermont is one of the safest states in the country.

Sincerely,

Darin Goens  
NRA-ILA State Liaison