

Gun Owners of Vermont  
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Hi my name is Ed Cutler I'm the president of Gun Owners of Vermont  
To begin I would like to address some questions raised at last weeks hearings.  
The first question was about using a false ID Criminals do not do it that way. The either  
steel firearms, purchase them for someone who steals them or have a non prohibited  
person buy them. All 3 of these are serious federal crimes and no state law would stop  
them from doing this.

Eric Davis will cover how the federal background check works but make no mistake.  
Many people have similar names or other things have been put on hold without being  
criminals or prohibited persons. This bill stop people from obtaining a firearm  
indefinitely and takes there right to self defense away. As an example starting this spring  
we have to compost food scraps. A bare keeps going to your compost pile and you need  
to defend your self. It would be bad enough to have to wait those 3 days let alone months  
if the FBI does not clear them.

Another question was raise about how many homicides were committed in Vermont. The  
real question should be how many murders. According to the latest F.B.I. uniform crime  
report there were 10 murders in 2018. Of those there were 3 firearm murders. This is not  
50 % of all homicides or murders. Lets compare this to other close states. New  
Hampshire had 21 murders 12 with firearms, Maine had 23, 11 with firearms,  
Massachusetts had 136 murders 93 firearms and has some serious anti self defense, anti  
gun laws. An interesting note is in Mass only 14% of the population have legal firearm  
ownership while in Vermont its estimated that 70% of all households have firearms.  
Connecticut had 83 murders 54 by firearms, New York with its draconian firearms laws  
had 546 murders 313 by firearm, New Jersey had 286 murders 202 by firearms. By  
putting the horse before the cart what this shows is that Vermont, New Hampshire and  
Maine are not only the 3 safest states in the country they are that way because of our  
constitutional rights to own and carry firearms. As a mater of fact Vermont has the lowest  
firearms murder rate not only in this country but the world. If you check last years  
submitted testimony you will see a number of women who wrote this committee telling  
you how they defended them selves with firearms.

Now lets go to the relief from abuse part of the bill. A judge already has the authority to  
tell someone they cant have a firearm and remove them from the home. Its been said that  
the most dangerous time is the first 48 hours. If you remove those firearms from that  
same home you take the victims most effective means of self defense away from them. If  
this was a serious problem the firearm murder rate would be much higher considering the  
millions of firearms in this state. Also in this bill it says the person who was removed  
cannot stay anywhere where there is a firearm. This is a serious problem That person

cannot stay with a friend or relative probably cant afford a motel. Where are they going to go. Even if they have a place to stay the cant leave there firearms with a friend or relative.

Page 12 extreme risk protection order.

Do you really thing a family member or health care provider have the knowledge or training to determine if a person is dangerous. This part of the bill has so many flaws virtually any anti gun family member or nurse could have a field day taking peoples firearms rights away. A good example of what this actually happen is Dr. Christopher Barsotti, who is constantly testifying to remove every firearm away from every man, woman anc child in this state

I respectfully request that you hold full public hearings on this bill and do not put a limit on how long it takes to hold them Let every one who wants to speak do so.

Ed Cutler

President

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