

As I sit here on the Statehouse floor listening to the testimonies for and against this bill, I have many questions. I have many facts that are not being listened to. I see the people against this bill far outnumbering those for it and you not listening.

I keep hearing "One life" is worth all the gun laws. I keep hearing how Vermont's youth suicide is the highest in the nation. I would like to know where this is occurring. I would like to know how "one life" is worth more than the lives of people driving down the road when someone else decides to drive at them in an attempt to kill themselves.

Since when do out of state college students get to dictate our laws? Since when do they get to tell me, a fifth generation Vermonter, that my safety means nothing?

In the past fifteen years in the state of Vermont there has only been one suicide by someone who has purchased a firearm within the first 24 hours of purchase. In the past twenty years, there has only been four. Infringing on mine and my children's given rights as citizens of the state of Vermont and the United States, will statistically save four people in twenty years. But how many people will have to face a domestic violence situation that could be quashed by a firearm in the victims possession? How many single mothers will lose their ability to protect their family in a day because a violent criminal just moved in to the neighborhood? Or how many living in the rural areas (you know, the majority of the acreage in this state) unable to purchase a protection firearm within a 24 hour period, lose their livestock because the bear just moved in or the coyotes just came to the area?

I hear a 24 hour waiting period will prevent our Veterans from committing suicide. Every Veteran I know already possesses a firearm or several. A waiting period is going to do nothing to save them.

Feelings do not dictate laws. I feel for every family who has lost someone to suicide. However there is no law, no amount of help that is going to stop someone from doing what they choose to do with their own body. We, as a state, have already said that it is ok for someone to take their own life with the assistance of a physician. How do you continue to consider passing all these bills into law that constantly contradict themselves?

I implore you to listen to the people! I think we spoke quite clear at the open meeting. Do not pass S.169 as it is unconstitutional. Do not pass S.169 as the law abiding citizens, who happen to own firearms, are tired of the constant feel good laws being shoved down our throats that actually cause more harm than good.

Thank you for your time.

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