

Testimonial before the Vermont House Judiciary Committee on S.169

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

My name is Dr. Daniel J. Monger and I live with my wife, Cathleen, in New Haven, VT

I have come to speak to you today on S.169; what used to be S.22.

Approximately 14 months ago the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting provided the impetus for the anti-gun debate to start the 2018 legislative session off in crisis mode. Rahm Emanuel said it best with his Alinsky-ite quote: "You never let a serious crisis go to waste". The battle was over the ban on magazine size, mandatory background checks for private firearms sales, and increasing the age requirement to purchase a long gun. The argument last year was that these measures would keep us all safe from the likes of Jack Sawyer. This was Governor Phil Scott's cathartic justification to reverse his long time promise to protect Vermont gun rights. This legislation was all ineffective. Why? Because today, Jack Sawyer can still come and go as he pleases. It accomplished nothing positive.

Last year's circus revolved around Michael Bloomberg and his financed groups such as the New Hampshire based Gun Sense Vermont, Senator Sears' bill S.221 and Representative Maxine Grad's bill H.422. These were domestic violence bills with serious due process violations and firearms forfeitures. Personally, while at the State House to testify, it literally seemed that everyone I ran into who wasn't wearing an orange T-shirt, had an ex-husband or lover that was threatening to kill them with a firearm. What are the odds of that? The obvious resolution to protect such threatened individuals was to provide them professional self-defense firearm training. Remember, when seconds matter, the Police are minutes away. But instead, the cry was to confiscate firearms without due process. Ineffective!

So, today's circus revolves around the imposition of a 24 hour waiting period to purchase a handgun. The premise is that this restriction will save more lives from suicide than would be lost if an ex-husband or lover were able to follow through on his threat to kill his estranged wife. All while she waits 24 hours to obtain a firearm for protection. Every life is sacred and the life of one threatened with violence is equal to the life of one contemplating suicide. Period. But our legislature has already concluded that one life is more equal than the other. And yes, this is all done under the frame work of common-sense gun control.

Finally, in terms of overall improvements in our legislative body, we can argue over the value in: (1) legislative term limits, (2) salary caps for our legislature, and (3) a required balanced budget by some means other than raising taxes. But I will bet you this: everyone in this room sees the value in a pre-requisite requirement that before any law maker take their seat in Congress, each must receive a mandatory college course in Logic.

Thank you.