

Testimony concerning S-169

Suicide is a tragedy...no doubt about it.

But a greater tragedy is when a legislature inflicts a punishment...and that's exactly what S-169 is, on other persons who are both innocent of any crime and loyal citizens of Vermont.

To inflict such a punishment is immoral, unethical and illegitimate. And, it may well be outside the authority of the Vermont legislature.

Suicide is a tragedy, but it is not a crime. If a person desires to do away with himself or herself, that is an unfortunate, but individual decision. The State has no interest or authority in this unfortunate decision.

A waiting period may, or more likely may not have any effect on the decision to take one's own life...if the person is determined, they simply choose another method.

However, a waiting period will have undesirable effects ...perhaps even disastrous on a person or persons needing self defense immediately....24 hours later, that person may be a victim, even dead, as a result of criminal activity such as domestic violence or a threat by another.

A recent judgment by the HON. ROGER T. BENITEZ, a United States District Judge, spelled this peril out much better than I can, in the introductory comments (of his decision) when he judged California's magazine ban unconstitutional.

His judgement is too lengthy for verbal testimony, but I will be more than happy to send it to any interested parties. My e-mail address is below my signature at the end of this testimony.

On others, a waiting period could harm businesses...something we in Vermont cannot afford. Waiting periods at a gun show purchase are unreasonable as the persons selling and the persons wishing to buy may well be distant from one another due to the nature of gun shows.

This bill, like all anti-rights (i.e. 2nd Amendment) will likely have no effect, other than harassment of the citizenry exercising a Constitutional right.. If harassment is the goal, those persons supporting any such bills have no right to be in the legislature.

Those who think banning firearms, an inanimate object that can do no harm, or delaying individuals' rights...such as this bill does...will end violence are deluding themselves...and doing great harm not only to the 2nd Amendment, but all rights.

Vermont cannot tolerate such infringements. I strongly urge this bill and any such bills henceforth, be voted down.

Respectfully,

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