
Ilse Vergi

Springfield,Vt.05156

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Dear Senators

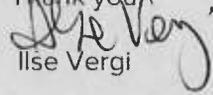
Richard Sears
Joe Benning
Alice Nitka
Jeanette White
Phil Baruth

S.22 proposes to have a 48 hour waiting period to purchase a firearm even after clearing a background check from a FFL dealer. This is supposed to have a "cooling off" effect for anyone contemplating suicide. Very rarely, if ever, does a balanced individual wake up one morning and decide to kill themselves. Suicides do not happen on the spur of the moment. It is a process that starts with depression then severe depression and then unbearable despair. This can take months to years to reach its pinnacle. A gun purchase waiting period will not have any influence on the outcome of a person's intent to kill themselves. After making up your mind that life is not worth living anymore, the idea doesn't just fade away in 48 hours,72 hours, 10 days, etc. Getting counseling long before reaching this point and counseling during and after someone has reached the crisis stage is the most effective intervention that can be offered. What a waiting period will do is put an individual at risk of being a victim.

For years, women's anti domestic violence groups have espoused that the most crucial time during a dangerous relationship is the 24-48 hours after one partner has broken ties and declared their independence. This is the boiling point when the abuser does the most damage to the other spouse i.e. murder and /or physical violence. If the woman (or man) has to protect themselves during these first hours it is crucial he or she does not have to wait to do so.This is now a matter of life and death.

Also mentioned in S.22 is the storage of firearms. If the firearm is not in one's immediate possession it must be locked in a depository. If I had very young children that might be an idea as a choice of mine, not the state of Vermont, to consider. Not all of us have children, are near children, or have children that ever enter the premises but we would have the undue burden of keeping

firearms off limits to ourselves. In a time of crisis this could turn into a deadly scenario. An intruder in the middle of the night will not wait for me to get out of bed, go to the basement, and work the combination on my gun safe to retrieve a firearm. Speaking as a woman ,I need to have immediate access to a firearm to protect myself. Both of these proposed ideas of S.22 are not practical, fair or effective. S.22 would create victims and bind the hands of honest, law abiding citizens. Please do not even consider passing such a senseless , daft bill.

Thank you

Ilse Vergi