

Peggy Delaney

Subject:

FW: NO NEW UNCONSTITUTIONAL GUN LAWS!!!

Dear Sen. Sears:

As a Vermont voter and concerned citizen I strongly urge you as the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote against and discard all upcoming gun control legislative proposals pending. Last year's passage of Vermont's first major gun control laws which clearly violate our state and U.S. Constitution were very sad and tragic to many Vermonters as you know given our state's proud history in defending the Second Amendment. As bad as S. 55 and the UNCONSTITUTIONAL red flag laws passed were, these were clearly only pushed by the anti Second Amendment crowd led by billionaire Michael Bloomberg to get their foot in the door and now they're back to push more. The legislation being pushed now including S.22 for gun storage and extended waiting periods do NOTHING to make Vermont safer and only further burden law abiding gun owners in our state. S. 22 even goes against a 2008 U.S. Supreme Court ruling but the anti-gun lobby led by Sen. Baruth don't seem to care. Many were disappointed last year that you allowed a vote on background checks to come to the Senate floor which the anti gun side then abused with draconian restrictions including the magazine ban (but please support Sen. John Rodgers legislation repealing this section of now Act 94). Now is your chance to help make a meaningful difference for Vermonters and the Second Amendment at this critical time while we still have some freedoms left here in our great state. So please do what's right for Vermont and vote against and shelf all upcoming gun control legislation being proposed in the Senate Judiciary Committee and support the repeal of the magazine ban to keep Vermont Second Amendment friendly. Thank You and best wishes!

Sincerely,
Chris Gearhart

Vermont State Senate - Judiciary Committee

February 26, 2019

Subject: **S.22**

I enter the following comments regarding the discussion for Thursday's Judiciary hearing on **S.22**; waiting period for firearm transfer and storage requirements for firearms.

The implementation of a waiting period to transfer a firearm is an unnecessary piece of legislation **NOT** based on real life historical data in Vermont. One, I repeat, one event in 2018 has become the catalyst for the same anti-gun crowd to take advantage of an unfortunate incident to push their ever burgeoning agenda.

There were **41,550 gun transfers in 2018 in Vermont** as determined from the FBI NICS data base. **One purchaser** took his own life within hours after procuring a firearm. That is **.0024%** of all gun transfers. Each transfer went through an FBI background check. **99.9976% of all 2018 transfers would not have benefited by the proposed waiting period specified in S.22.** Based on this empirical data a waiting period that will impact 40,000 plus legitimate annual purchases cannot be justified regardless of the tragedy of this one event. **This is the age old cliché of a solution looking for a problem.**

We are not requiring "breathalyzers" on every car because a few miscreants drive while intoxicated. We don't punish everyone for the misdeeds of a few. Why are guns any different? Far more people are killed by drunk drivers than from guns.

As I hear the "**majority party**" in the Legislature rail about fossil fuels, the need for hybrid vehicles, solar power, more public transportation, reducing wear and tear on our roads, etc., we then hear these same people wanting to add a second trip (waiting period) to the gun store for each purchase. Based on 2018 data, that would be over 83,000 trips to a dealer by Vermonters to purchase 41,550 firearms. Many local gun stores cannot carry the inventory for all brands, configurations, calibers, vintage, etc., so gun buyers may have to travel long distances to find the firearm they want to purchase. Personally I have traveled from Colchester to Rutland, Newport, Lynden, Highgate, Waterbury, Barre, Hardwick, Bradford, etc. to make a purchase. To retrace my steps to pick up a purchase several days later, that would be required by the waiting period (worst case, up to 200 miles extra), fly's in the face of the green initiative, and with no justifiable benefit. Legislators are talking out of both sides of their mouths.

If you look at studies done by unbiased entities, such as Johns Hopkins, U.C. Davis, Georgetown, Duke, Univ. of Cincinnati, AZ State and the **CDC**, their bottom line assessment over the years is that **waiting periods have no measurable effect on crime or suicides.**

As far as requirements to secure guns anytime it/they are not under your absolute personal control is also unneeded and unenforceable legislation. Vermont's safety record for accidental discharges and deaths is stellar; zero, year after year. To enforce such a law, authorities would

Peggy Delaney

From: Richard Sears
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:10 PM
To: Peggy Delaney
Subject: Fwd: NO NEW UNCONSTITUTIONAL GUN LAWS!!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dick Sears
State Senator, Bennington County and Wilmington
343 Matteson Rd.
North Bennington, VT 05257
Chair Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee

From: "clgearhart" <clgearhart@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 8:08:59 PM
To: "Richard Sears" <RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: NO NEW UNCONSTITUTIONAL GUN LAWS!!!

Dear Sen. Sears:

As a Vermont voter and concerned citizen I strongly urge you as the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote against and discard all upcoming gun control legislative proposals pending. Last year's passive of Vermont's first major gun control laws which clearly violate our state and U.S. Constitution were very sad and tragic to many Vermonters as you know given our state's proud history in defending the Second Amendment. As bad as S. 55 and the UNCONSTITUTIONAL red flag laws passed were, these were clearly only pushed by the anti Second Amendment crowd led by billionaire Michael Bloomberg to get their foot in the door and now they're back to push more. The legislation being pushed now including S.22 for gun storage and extended waiting periods do NOTHING to make Vermont safer and only further burden law abiding gun owners in our state. S. 22 even goes against a 2008 U.S. Supreme Court ruling but the anti-gun lobby led by Sen. Baruth don't seem to care. Many were disappointed last year that you allowed a vote on background checks to come to the Senate floor which the anti gun side then abused with draconian restrictions including the magazine ban (but please support Sen. John Rodgers legislation repealing this section of now Act 94). Now is your chance to help make a meaningful difference for Vermonters and the Second Amendment at this critical time while we still have some freedoms left here in our great state. So please do what's right for Vermont and vote against and shelf all upcoming gun control legislation being proposed in the Senate Judiciary Committee and support the repeal of the magazine ban to keep Vermont Second Amendment friendly. Thank You

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Subject:

FW: S.22

I would like to enter the following comments regarding the discussion for Thursday's Judiciary hearing on S.22 " waiting period for firearm transfer and storage requirements for firearms ".

The implementation of a waiting period to transfer a firearm is an unnecessary piece of legislation as there is no historical data, showing this item, will or would have stopped this person from taking his own life. This bill S.22 appears to be an agenda generated a bill to hinder law-abiding citizens only.

Yes, in 2018 we had one tragedy from a young man (23 years old) that decided to take his own life with a newly purchased firearm, tragic !! But as we all know you can try as hard as you want, when someone is intent to do so, they will find a way. My thoughts are you need to address this as a personal tragedy not as a "gun issue" but as a " mental health issue ". Only his family knows the real answers to why and they couldn't stop what was in his mind.....Sad.

We elect our officials to serve & protect its citizens if you really took this seriously, then your top priority would be automobile fatalities in VT, so far in 2019 (2) and in 2018 (69) I could go on, but you get my gist !! I haven't stated anything on drug concerns in 2019, that will be another day.

I believe we have over 100K gun owners in Vermont and we have this one tragedy and now law-abiding citizens are being held accountable (Again), this is " Agenda Only " Legislation, we deserve better from Montpelier !!

No disrespect to this committee, but being a Vermonter for over 67 years, I don't need you to tell me what I and how I control what goes on within my house (Secure Firearms) beside this cannot be enforced, so it's just smoke & mirrors, that shows it's all about an agenda only.....Shameful.

We have two documents, the US Constitution and Vermont's Constitution with Article 16 along with 1968 Gun Control Act plenty of laws already.

Please take into consideration my disapproval of bill S.22.

Charles Thompson
Burlington, VT 05401