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To My Vermont Representatives:

Please oppose S.30, which will do nothing but victimize innocent gun owners, who may have forgotten they have a weapon on their person. There is no problem in Vermont, and if there was, no law will stop a felon from walking into any facility with a firearm to shoot anyone. That individual already is aware that he is a felon. Meanwhile, you've deprived anyone in the building their right to defend themselves or to respond for others, should they also have immediate access to their own legal firearm. Now I read that the gun-banners have additional restrictions in mind to add to the bill.

I have carried a firearm for over 50 years and have had to brandish it twice for the defense of self and/or others, which immediately ceased any further action by the assailant. The mere possession of that firearm without the need to ever expose it has also emboldened me to run to, rather away, from dozens of situations where others have been in imminent danger and needed help.

All this new legislation will do is wrongfully deprive and criminalize law-abiding Vermonters, who could be called upon, and would respond to, defend others who may be in peril at the hands of a violent criminal. A law, or a sign on the door banning firearms, will do absolutely nothing to stop an attack by an intent gunman. Your solution is to call 911, and wait 10 minutes for a response, if you're lucky.

Now I know that some/many of your associates are receiving George Soros/Bloomberg-related funds through well-funded lobbyists to impose unconstitutional mandates related to firearm ownership/possession. We already have proper laws which are more than sufficient. Listen to Vermonters, not those people....though many of you are not from Vermont, you escaped the big city, and now you are bringing your baggage up here. No one is asking you to carry a weapon, but do not tell us we can't. We are not criminals, and we don't expose our firearms until they are absolutely needed for the protection of the state and defense of ourselves and others. It's in the Vermont Constitution. How dare you? Are you dumb enough to think that this proposed legislation will stop gun violence? You are instead making hospitals targets for any such perpetrator! Mandate the hiring of properly trained and armed security guards at those facilities. Don't impose restrictions on the rest of the lawful populace! More guns, less crime.

I moved up here to protect my family, where I am able to be armed when I feel the need. Funny thing is, anti-gun neighbors are the first to call me whenever they feel threatened, due to a prowler, suspicious person, etc. They know the police are not the quickest to respond should they need to be summoned in an emergency.

If there is no need for firearms, why do you have armed guards protecting you in the State House? Oh, I forgot, you are special. If we don't need firearms, neither do any of you. Save the taxpayers money by simply phoning the Montpelier police should the ever need arise...they are just two blocks away! As to laying off the present state house force, all the cities are looking for police recruits. (I say this sarcastically and just want to point out that you are no more deserving of that protection than your constituents, yet we pay their salaries.)

Your hospital security guard with his can of mace is in the cafeteria. He's first on the assailant's list. Otherwise, the perpetrator may have already shot his intended victim. He then is confronted by a half-dozen doctors, nurses, patients, and visitors, who could now become victims of his rage. Do you hope that one of them has the ability to retrieve a firearm from their vehicle? Hopefully, that possible hero will have the sense to use the stairs, and not wait for an elevator. Meanwhile, the Berlin police are busy running a speed-trap on the Barre-Montpelier Rd., and it shouldn't take them more than eight to ten minutes to respond to CVH. The Burlington Police will only respond to UVM medical center if requested by its mace-equipped campus cop.

No, this law will not create your vision of a never-never-land. The old saying best describes this situation: "When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." The same type of ban in schools, theaters, and restaurants across the country has only yielded so-called "safe zones" for those crazies, and this bill similarly will make our hospitals such targets. **VOTE NO!**

Jerry Cormier,  
Retired: U.S. Treasury Revenue Officer, U.S. Federal Protective Officer, VT Hunter Safety Instructor