



May 5, 2022

Dear Chair Grad and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed amendments to S.281. I apologize that I am currently traveling and unable to be there in-person.

GunSense Vermont believes that enough questions have been raised regarding silencers to necessitate a full hearing in the next biennium. Passing firearm policy via a floor amendment sets a bad precedent. These are life and death issues and policies related to firearms often have unseen and potentially devastating consequences in terms of gun violence. Upon learning of the amendments to S.281, we have received numerous questions from members across the state - questions we currently don't have enough information to answer. The concerns surrounding suppressors outside of gun ranges should be addressed comprehensively and we fail to see the urgency in rushing this legislation through over the last few days of the session.

We support Vermont's sportsman tradition and policies that keep our hunters safe. However, this needs to be balanced against the legitimate public safety concerns raised, including the need to identify active shooters in rural areas. As such, we would recommend the committee find this language unfavorable at least until members are given all the information needed to make an informed decision.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this amendment and would be eager to learn more about the benefits and possible dangers associated with firearm suppressors in the future. In the meantime, all Vermonters - particularly those who have been touched by gun violence - deserve an opportunity to offer public input in a full legislative hearing.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conor Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Conor Casey
Executive Director
GunSense Vermont