

Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Testimony on S.209
House Judiciary – 4/22/2024
Chris Bradley - VTFSC President

In the interests of brevity between the time the Committee may see this and the Committee's vote, I provide the following.

Pertaining to Draft 4.1 of S.209

The Federation opposes this. We would like the Committee to know that the Supreme Court of the United States yesterday (4/22/24) granted Certiorari in [Garland v Vanderstok](#) challenging the “frame and receiver” rule recently implemented by the ATF, and this is expected to be heard in the October timeframe. It is currently unclear what effect this may have on S.209.

Harrison Amendment

We strongly oppose this amendment as the general issue of “sensitive places” is currently under heightening scrutiny by courts, which we believe will add clarity to what can or cannot be designated a “Gun-Free Zone.”

To be clear: What this amendment represents is in fact bill H.525, a bill that never made it out of House Government Operations where it was referred to earlier this session but was on the wall.

We further understand that the impetus behind H.525 is a single person who has proven to be a problematic “bully” in one Vermont town (Mendon), and there are numerous existing statutes that can be used to control such miscreants.

LaLonde Amendment

We can support a study, but again: This amendment is based on the Harrison amendment, which was based on the antics of one person, with other existing statutes available to address the situation.

Gun-Free Zones, unless protected by screening and guards, cannot be considered safe places for those who wish to provide the means of the defense of themselves and others.