

SB 978 makes gun owners responsible to lock up their firearms and if a gun is stolen and must report it stolen within 72 hours. If the the gun owner fails to report it stolen within the certain time, they are punished.

If this were law a few years ago, my family would have been punished. We did everything right under this bill. Guns put away, locked up. When we were gearing up to sight in our rifles for hunting, we discovered they were all missing. We did not know when the were taken. It could have been days, weeks or even months.

We reported them missing, got a case number and my family and I helped law enforcement track them down at possible gun stores. Fortunately we were able to track down all but one. We got a name, and he informed the officers of his accomplice, a individual we know. He was arrested and charged for the theft.

This Bill would only have criminalized us law abiding gun owners, simply because we didn't know when the weapons were stolen.

Locking up guns is never fool proof. A cable lock just needs bolt cutters to make the gun readily accessible. Gun safes can be broken into as well. We hear about ATM's getting broken into or safes getting broken into. What's makes people think gun safes from getting broken into.

This Bill is horrible and won't stop a crime if a criminal manages to break into such safe. I urge you to vote No on this horrible bill, that just criminalizes the victim.

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Our right to self defense is a fundamental right. Our founding fathers knew this. Thomas Jefferson made it clear that any law that prevents a person their right to carry is essentially there death sentence when they are attacked by one who intends to do severe harm or kill.

“The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.”
– Thomas Jefferson, Commonplace Book (quoting 18th century criminologist Cesare Beccaria), 1774-1776

As evidence look at the cities with the strictest gun laws in the country. These cities have the highest homicide rates, yet here we are, debating whether or not we shall be like them.

I question the notion that this proposed bill, among others, is quote "Safety for the kids". We all want the kids to be safe and protected. We have different solutions to go about it. But I find the solutions on the other side of the aisle wrong. That any law that makes Tyranny a possible is a threat to liberty itself. Like what Patrick Henry states...

“Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined.... The great object is that every man be armed. Everyone who is able might have a gun.”
– Patrick Henry, Speech to the Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 5, 1778

Whenever we (the people) give up that force, we are ruined. It is our fundamental right to oppose Tyranny with force. I pray it doesn't come down to that.

I would like to end this with one final quote...

“They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”
– Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759

For this I WILL NOT COMPLY

Christopher Uffelman