

Submitter: Donna Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB527

Dear Senator Dembrow,

I strongly OPPOSE SB 527. The importance of our 2nd Amendment rights, the reason it was created and installed in the constitution and founders, is much more than just self-defense against criminals and physical abusers, it is first and foremost about defending ourselves from a tyrannical government. If you familiarized yourself with the federalist papers than you would see the true intent behind the 2nd amendment when the framers, which were also all the early U.S. presidents, wrote the amendment. They fully intended for all military aged adults to be able to own, purchase, and possess firearms for defense of themselves, their families, their communities, and the constitution. That common arm is the M-4 rifle. The AR-15 rifle is the semi-auto only version of the M-4. Also important to note is that adults in this country are 18 years of age and the bulk of the military today is comprised of adults between the ages of 17 and 21.

Saturation of media coverage during terrifying events like mass shootings has given too many people the impression that these things occur more frequently than they actually do. Most gun-related deaths are suicides. Mass shooting casualties (where 3 or more are shot) are less than 1% of all gun deaths. 96% of gun deaths in America come from handguns and the 2nd highest are from shotguns and rifles were the least major cause. According to FBI data, of 17,813 reported homicides in 2020, rifles only accounted for 455 while 662 were from personal weapons described as hands, feet, and fists.

Gun control constitutionally cannot and will not ever be the answer but instead the focus should be on properly funded and staffed mental health services and expanded background checks that include juvenile records and school disciplinary/mental health counseling records. This will be the most effective way to curb mentally ill and unstable/violent people from getting legal access to purchase guns. And for illegally possessed guns and gun violence prevention in general today we need prosecutor offices to stop giving slaps on the wrists to criminals/felons with guns turning them right back out onto the streets and prosecute these criminals with the laws in the books. I urge you to not pass more gun control that will never stop criminals and to let this very bad bill die in committee. Please vote NO on SB-527. Thank you.