

Submitter: Andrew Marques
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Testimony Opposing New Gun Laws as Unconstitutional

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today in opposition to the proposed gun laws that threaten the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. These laws not only undermine the fundamental freedoms enshrined in our Constitution but also fail to address the root causes of violence in our communities.

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution is clear: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” The Founders understood that the right to self-defense is inherent, and they enshrined this protection to ensure that government overreach would never strip the people of their ability to defend themselves, their families, and their property. Any law that restricts access to firearms for law-abiding citizens infringes upon this right and directly contradicts the original intent of the Constitution.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right. In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual’s right to possess firearms unconnected with service in a militia. In *McDonald v. City of Chicago* (2010), the Court reinforced that this right applies to all Americans by incorporating it against state and local governments. Any law that seeks to place undue burdens on gun ownership stands in direct defiance of these rulings and will inevitably face constitutional challenges.

Beyond the constitutional issues, these proposed laws will not achieve their intended goal of reducing crime. Criminals, by definition, do not obey the law. Stripping responsible citizens of their right to self-defense only emboldens those who do not follow the law. Studies consistently show that cities and states with the most restrictive gun laws still struggle with high crime rates, proving that disarming the public is not the solution. Instead, enforcing existing laws, addressing mental health concerns, and targeting criminals—not law-abiding gun owners—should be the focus of any serious effort to reduce gun violence.

I urge this committee to reject any legislation that infringes upon the constitutional rights of the people. Gun control laws that penalize responsible citizens while failing

to deter criminals are not only ineffective but unconstitutional. We must stand firm in defending the Second Amendment and ensuring that our rights remain intact for future generations.

Thank you.