

Submitter: Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3076, which directs the Department of Justice to study the establishment of a state gun dealer licensing program. While I recognize the importance of addressing gun violence and ensuring public safety, I believe that this legislation is not the right approach and may lead to unnecessary complications and burdens on law-abiding citizens.

First and foremost, the establishment of a state gun dealer licensing program could create additional regulatory hurdles for responsible gun dealers and owners. This could result in increased costs and administrative burdens, which may ultimately be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices for firearms and related products. Such measures disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminals who do not adhere to the law.

Moreover, there is a significant concern that a state licensing program may not effectively address the root causes of gun violence. Instead of focusing on responsible gun ownership and education, this approach could shift the emphasis toward regulation that may not yield meaningful results in reducing crime. A more effective strategy would involve bolstering community safety initiatives, improving mental health resources, and promoting responsible gun ownership practices.

Additionally, this study could divert valuable resources and attention away from more pressing public safety issues. The Department of Justice has a wide range of responsibilities, and directing efforts toward a study on gun dealer licensing may detract from efforts to combat violent crime and support community safety programs.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider support for House Bill 3076. Instead of pursuing a state gun dealer licensing program, we should focus on solutions that empower responsible gun ownership while effectively addressing the underlying issues related to gun violence.