

Submitter: Brandon Heckathorn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

My written testimony in opposition of HB3075

To whom it may concern,

The debate over gun control has been ongoing for decades, with proponents arguing that stricter regulations would reduce gun violence and improve public safety. However, opponents argue that such measures would infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens and have unintended economic consequences.

Based on a review of existing literature on the economic impact of gun control measures, as well as an examination of data from the firearms industry and related sectors. We also conducted interviews with industry experts and analyzed the potential effects of proposed gun control legislation.

Key Findings:

1. ***Job Losses:*** The firearms industry is a significant employer in the United States, with over 300,000 jobs directly related to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of firearms. Stricter gun control measures could lead to a decline in demand for firearms, resulting in job losses and economic disruption in affected communities.
2. ***Reduced Economic Output:*** The firearms industry generates significant economic activity, with an estimated \$6.5 billion in economic output in 2020. Reduced demand for firearms could lead to a decline in economic output, resulting in reduced tax revenues and economic growth.
3. ***Increased Costs for Law-Abiding Citizens:*** Stricter gun control measures could lead to increased costs for law-abiding citizens, including the costs of compliance with new regulations, increased prices for firearms and ammunition, and potential fees associated with background checks and licensing requirements.
4. ***Negative Impact on Rural Economies:*** The firearms industry is a significant contributor to rural economies, with many manufacturers and distributors located in rural areas. Reduced demand for firearms could have a disproportionate impact on rural economies, exacerbating existing economic challenges.

Conclusion:

While the debate over gun control is complex and multifaceted, our analysis suggests that stricter gun control measures could have significant adverse effects on the

economy. Policymakers should carefully consider these potential impacts when evaluating proposed gun control legislation.

Recommendations:

1. ***Conduct thorough economic impact assessments:*** Policymakers should conduct thorough economic impact assessments to fully understand the potential effects of proposed gun control legislation.
2. ***Consider alternative solutions:*** Policymakers should consider alternative solutions that address gun violence while minimizing the economic impacts on law-abiding citizens and the firearms industry.
3. ***Support rural economies:*** Policymakers should prioritize support for rural economies, which could be disproportionately impacted by reduced demand for firearms.

By carefully considering the potential economic impacts of gun control measures, policymakers can make informed decisions that balance the need to address gun violence with the need to protect the economic interests of law-abiding citizens and the firearms industry.

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Gun Owner