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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Self defense is a fundamental human right. Firearm regulation is a form of self defense. Guns are dangerous. Guns are lethal and efficient weapons, and restricting who has access to these weapons is a fundamental action necessary to mitigate the harm that firearms can facilitate.

But the vast majority of firearms are in the hands of decent people who care about their fellow human beings. This bill, and the measure it intends to augment, violate the fundamental human right to self defense by making firearms prohibitively expensive. This is a violation of human rights and of the US Constitution.

It is an insidious and misinformed attempt to control who has the right to self defense. In the same way that “no one is banning abortion,” this bill and 114 put good people in danger by controlling and curtailing their freedom to make decisions by making access to the tools of self defense prohibitively expensive to the people who need it most.

Now, more than ever, marginalized communities need access to the means of self defense. While no one has any obligation to defend themselves, the right to self defense cannot be abbreviated.

These bills follow the same modus operandi of the bills in other states that seek to control the bodies of citizens by effectively banning abortions through obfuscation, criminalization, and artificially inflating the cost of medical procedures that people have a fundamental human right to have access to.

Firearm regulation has a place in a civilized and free society, but these bills do not meet the standards that must be adhered to when we wish to legislate human rights.

We can either seek to create a free and fair and safer society, or we can seek to control. This bill makes it clear that its intention is control. It is based on emotional reactions to misunderstood information.

I am confident that we are intelligent enough to find creative and progressive solutions to firearm violence without violating the constitution, human rights, and our freedom to make choices.

I get it. Guns are scary. People who want to hurt people are scary. But taking away our access to the means with which we can protect ourselves from those people is at

least as scary to many of your constituents.

Guns make killing easier. We know that if we got rid of all the guns homicide would plummet. Suicide would plummet. Accidental deaths would plummet. But that isn't what we're proposing.

We must be willing to find solutions that uphold human rights instead of eroding them. I want to live in a society where I feel safe from violent criminals and ideological extremists. But I live in this one. Please don't make me a criminal for being prepared to protect my family, my friends, myself, and my fellow humans from those who wish to harm us.