

Submitter: Stan Vizina
On Behalf Of: Patriots who gave their life protecting our rights
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB697

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on the critical issue of gun control. This debate should be rooted in facts rather than fear, and the numbers paint a very clear picture.

The Reality of Firearm Deaths

In 2016, total U.S. deaths: 2,744,248 (CDC)

Firearm-related homicides: 10,982 (FBI, 2017) – just 0.4% of total deaths.

All rifle-related murders, including "assault rifles": 403—a mere 0.015% of total deaths.

U.S. population in 2017: 325 million ? firearm homicides affected just 0.003% of Americans.

Civilian-owned firearms: 265 million+ ? only 0.004% are used in homicides.

Crime and Firearms

86% of crime guns are obtained illegally (DOJ/BJS).

Only 13% of crime guns come from legal sales.

Even anti-gun Violence Policy Center data shows firearms stop violent crime 59,000 times per year—6x more than they are used for murder.

If reducing gun violence is the goal, why target law-abiding citizens instead of the illegal gun trade and repeat offenders?

Perspective on Public Safety

Firearm deaths—homicides and suicides combined—aren't among the top 10 causes of death (CDC).

Flu and pneumonia kill 5x more Americans annually than all firearm homicides.

Instead of tackling issues with greater public health impact, lawmakers focus on restricting firearms—a constitutional right.

The True Purpose of Gun Control

Our nation was founded, defended, and preserved by armed citizens. Every right we enjoy today exists because Americans bore arms in defense of liberty. The very politicians pushing gun restrictions do so only because past generations risked their lives to secure these freedoms.

This isn't about safety—it's about control. Some lawmakers exploit this issue to mislead voters, using emotion over facts. The evidence does not support broad gun restrictions as an effective crime solution.

I challenge any legislator considering restrictive gun laws to visit a military cemetery and vote while standing among the graves of those who fought for our rights. These brave men and women did not sacrifice their lives so that future politicians could dismantle the freedoms they died to protect.

Uphold the Constitution. Reject laws that punish law-abiding citizens while ignoring the real sources of crime.

References:

[1] CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/deaths.htm>

[2] FBI: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/tables/table-20>

[3] CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_05.pdf

[4] Harvard Injury Control Research Center:

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research>

[5] Violence Policy Center: <http://vpc.org/studies/justifiable18.pdf>

[6] DOJ/BJA: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/suficspi16.pdf>