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On Behalf Of: The Communist Dialectic Advancement Front
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Comrades,

In the struggle for human Marxist liberation, to advance the Dialectical to the End of History, the role of firearms must be critically interrogated. As tools of personal liberty, firearms in capitalist societies overwhelmingly function as instruments of reaction. They preserve bourgeois power, intimidate proletarian movements, and serve as material enforcers of private property relations. It is not coincidental that reactionary forces—often ideologically entrenched defenders of the status quo—are among the most ardent supporters of widespread gun ownership. Firearms must be first restricted and eventually banned as a necessary step in removing material obstacles to proletarian revolution.

As Herbert Marcuse argued in *One-Dimensional Man*, advanced industrial society has developed mechanisms of control that appear liberatory while actually reinforcing existing domination. The civilian firearm, often promoted as a symbol of freedom and self-reliance, is one such mechanism. It provides a simulacrum of autonomy while tethering the individual to a structure of violence that ultimately upholds bourgeois property relations. The illusion of empowerment through private arms conceals a deeper integration into the very system that must be overcome.

Marxist analysis makes clear that capitalist society is built on private property and its violent protection. Firearms are used to secure that property—not just physically, but ideologically. They enable the myth of the rugged, self-defending individual, an ideal which alienates the proletariat from collective political struggle and binds them instead to bourgeois conceptions of ownership and defense. In this way, firearms don't merely protect bourgeois property—they are bourgeois property: commodities that reproduce capitalist ideology, isolation, and the myth of individual sovereignty.

Furthermore, the widespread availability of firearms empowers reactionary resistance to revolutionary transformation. When progressive movements begin to organize for systemic change, they often encounter not just state opposition but armed civilian resistance driven by fear of losing entrenched privileges. These armed reactionaries form an auxiliary force of counterrevolution. Marcuse warned of this phenomenon, noting that “repressive tolerance” allows reactionary elements to arm themselves under the banner of freedom while obstructing the conditions for true liberation.

Crucially, the existence of widespread gun ownership undermines the development of collective political power. It sustains the illusion that atomized violence can

substitute for mass mobilization and democratic struggle. By banning firearms, we disarm not just the reactionary individual, but a broader cultural logic that valorizes domination, defense of property, and privatized violence over solidarity, justice, and structural change.

In short, to disarm the reactionary, we must disarm society itself. The ban of firearms is not a betrayal of revolutionary aims, but a precondition for them. Without the gun to enforce inequality and obstruct transformation, a different kind of power might finally emerge—one grounded not in coercion, but in collective emancipation.

This bill does not get us all the way there, but it is an important dialectical advancement of our agenda. We thank you.