



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Inc.

Organized in 1921 Incorporated in 1933

Fighting for Liberty, Conservation, Wildlife, and our Natural Resources Since 1921

P.O. Box 205, Presto, PA 15142

www.acslpa.org

Klint Macro

President of the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League

kmacro@acslpa.org

RE: HB 1753 (mandatory training before the purchase of and concealed carry of firearms)

Dear Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I represent the members of the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, which consists of sportsmen's clubs and organizations mostly in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Many of these clubs and organizations offer firearm safety and education opportunities to their members and to the public. I am also a professional defensive firearms trainer and founder of the Trigger Pressers Union. I have trained 100's of instructors to teach civilians various firearm safety, marksmanship, and defensive curriculum from multiple National Training Organizations. I am the co-administrator of National Train A Teacher Day, a grass roots initiative where instructors across the Nation offer their expertise to educate and empower those who are charged with the safety and education of our children. I am also on the board of Firearms Owners Against Crime (FOAC). One aspect of FOAC's mission is education. I travel the country teaching my fellow law abiding Citizens the safe and proper use of firearms and help to empower them to become their own "family first responder" by exercising awareness, conflict avoidance, and being able to recognize their own competency to use firearms in an efficient way that works well with what the body does naturally under stress to better protect those who they love. I feed my family and keep my lights on through training my fellow law abiding Citizens. I believe it is fair to say that I value training and education. With all of that said, I can assure you that *mandatory* training is a horrible idea.

I train and certify instructors in various states, those with and those without mandatory training laws. I can say that mandatory training is a very negative thing for a number of reasons, which include:

1. It puts a hurdle in the way of a law abiding Citizen to exercise a Constitutionally guaranteed Right
2. It makes it harder for lower income Americans to afford to defend themselves and their families by burdening them with additional costs and fees
3. It creates a government mandated standard that is typically laughably inappropriate and bears no relevance to the context of civilian defensive application of firearms
4. It creates a local/state-wide industry of training to the minimum "standard"
5. It creates a false sense of competency. When someone meets the "state standard", folks believe they are instantly safe and ready
6. There is ZERO evidence to support that States with mandatory training are "safer" than those that do not require training
7. It creates a negative mindset... people will not learn what they must, but they will learn what they desire and need. Nothing closes ones mind faster than government mandated anything.
8. It implicitly says that only gun owners should receive safety training

The comparison is often made about mandatory training to drive a vehicle. Representatives Ullman and Kinsey made reference to this in their memorandum dated January 22nd, 2019 when they introduced this legislation. It must be recognized that, the Representatives failed to mention in their memo that training is not required to purchase a vehicle, where this legislation would impose a training requirement for someone to purchase a firearm. For the sake of my analogy, I will not go into depth about the fact that owning a vehicle and driving it is NOT a Constitutionally guaranteed Right and owning and using a firearm IS.... that being said, "drivers training" consists of people learning facts and details that they often forget minutes after they take their written tests and the driving portion only vets them to drive slightly under the speed limit, with an auditor in the passenger seat

while they use their turn signals and parallel park. It does not prepare a driver to drive on ice, or in heavy traffic, or around aggressive drivers. It doesn't vet the student's ability to use good judgement. If mandatory drivers training REALLY worked we would live in a world where nobody would get a ticket and 35,000+ Americans would not be killed in automobile accidents each year.

I wonder if mandatory training would be appropriate before one should be allowed to worship? Perhaps training should be imposed before a citizen can vote? Maybe mandatory training should be imposed before a citizen is allowed to write a letter, love song, script, or poem? Maybe mandatory training on a particular subject should be imposed before a Legislator could write legislation on it? Our Rights as Americans and Pennsylvanians are guaranteed and are "not to be questioned". Mandatory training is a restriction and infringement.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you and educate you on the ineffectiveness of this legislation but I also welcome you to audit or participate in any of my upcoming safety and or defensive classes free of charge. I will extend this offer to ANY of your colleagues in the legislature as well. I'll even offer to come to a location that is convenient to you or a group of legislators and offer training.

My schedule can be found on my training website www.triggerpressersunion.com.

I would fully support mandatory firearm safety training at the **GRADE SCHOOL** level. Basic safety and handling education with children will take the taboo out of firearms, demystify "the gun", and ensure a respectful and educated "next generation" of adults.

If you are **truly** interested in safety, I would jump at the opportunity to advise you on what works best. Unlike other lobbyists who claim to be "gun safety advocates", I have trained 1000's of adults and children in the safe and proper use of firearms... gun owners and non-gun owners alike.

If Representatives Ullman and Kinsey and all of the co-sponsors of this bill were truly interested in protecting "Pennsylvania's Children", why would they segregate the citizenry and target one group of Pennsylvanians by imposing mandated training for gun owners only? This is where I believe the intent of this legislation loses integrity. It would seem that the true intent of this legislation is to limit and restrict the rights of YOUR law-abiding constituents and fellow Pennsylvanians.

I recommend supporting Rep. Bernstine's HB1412 (Constitutional Carry) and bringing HB1066 (Strengthening Preemption) to a vote. We should dedicate our energy in the promotion of the exercise of Rights and Liberties... not in the limitation and restriction of them. You should work to empower your constituents not impede them.

Please advise, in writing, via email, your personal position on HB1753. I will forward this correspondence and all responses to the ACSL Executive Secretary, Michele Colville, so that she can enter them into the official Allegheny County Sportsmen's League record.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Most Respectfully,



Klint Macro
President of The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League
Founder of The Trigger Pressers Union
Co-Administrator of National Train A Teacher Day
Board Member of Firearms Owners Against Crime