



## **Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Inc.**

Organized in 1921 Incorporated in 1933

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

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Written Testimony of Klint Macro  
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### **PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SECOND AMENDMENT and OTHER GUN RELATED ISSUES**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to make comments and share information with you in the hopes to educate you and put certain facts into perspective.

I am the President of the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, co-administrator of National Train A Teacher Day, a professional firearm safety and defensive instructor of national significance, a board member of Firearms Owners Against Crime and the founder of The Trigger Pressers Union. Most importantly, I am my family's first responder.

One of the missions of the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League is *"To defend and protect, by means of educating public officials and the general public, the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, especially the Second Amendment and Article 1, section 21, respectively."* Like you, I have sworn an oath defend and protect our precious Constitutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on various proposed legislation and "solutions" to criminal violence that are currently being considered in the Commonwealth.

#### **Universal Background Checks**

There are 2 primary issues with this type of legislation. First, UBC's lead to "universal registration". Having government register the personal property of law abiding citizens is an overreach of authority, especially when that particular property is constitutionally guaranteed. History has shown us that registration leads to confiscation.

Right now, in Pennsylvania, all legal handgun purchases must go through an FFL and the purchaser must submit to a background check. UBC's would make it mandatory for citizens to transfer rifles and shotguns through FFL's and submit to the same process. [The 2017 PA Uniform Crime Report](#) states that of the 570 homicides by firearm, 452 were committed by criminals with handguns. The background check process does little to curb criminals from illegally obtaining handguns and committing crime. The 2017 PA Uniform Crime Report shows that 64 citizens were murdered by stabbing, 14 were murdered by blunt instruments, 10 were murdered with rifles and 8 were murdered with shotguns. Rifles and shotguns account for a very small percentage of the weapons used by criminals and there are no known instances where criminals used privately sold rifles or shotguns in a crime. Criminals do not purchase firearms through FFL's and even if they did, the background check does nothing to prevent someone from committing an act of evil after they pass a background check.

Secondly, UBC's prevent the transfer of any firearm from one person to another. As a professional firearm safety and defense instructor, I will often "loan" a firearm to a student during a class so that they can learn to handle it

safely and efficiently. People may use a loaner firearm in a class because they simply want to learn about firearms. Some people want to gain knowledge in order to make a better choice when they eventually purchase their own. They take "possession" of the firearm during the training. A UBC law would make that illegal. By supporting universal background checks and making it illegal to transfer possession of a firearm without a background check, you would be making it illegal to teach a fellow law abiding citizen how to safely handle a firearm. If your goal is to save lives, I cannot imagine you would support legislation that prohibits education.

### **Red Flag Laws or Extreme Risk Protection Orders**

ERPOs greatly diminish and in some cases eliminate due process, allowing the government to confiscate a law-abiding citizen's personal property based on an allegation. I am sure you can recognize the potential for spiteful people to bear false witness against someone who has NOT committed a crime. I am sure, during your very own election, you were at some point shocked at the low level your opponent or their supporters would stoop to discredit you. People are capable of terrible lies. We MUST not allow law abiding citizens, who have NOT committed a crime, to have their lives turned upside down based upon a simple allegation from an unqualified, non-professional. What happened to presumption of innocence? If there were credible intelligence and true concern about a citizen's potential to be a danger to themselves or others, why would you take their constitutionally guaranteed property but let them to continue to live freely in society with access to vehicles, petroleum products, knives, blunt objects, pressure cookers, and box cutters? ERPOs are solely designed to confiscate firearms; not to save lives.

### **Magazine Limitations and Bans**

A magazine is a device, typically made of metal or polymer, which houses ammunition and has a spring and a follower. The ammunition is inserted into the magazine on top of the follower and spring. The follower uses the spring tension to push cartridges to the top of the magazine so that the firearms action can cycle and feed a round into the chamber. Some magazines are fixed and not removable from the firearm, others are removable. The vast majority of removable magazines are referred to as "box" magazines. Box magazines hold anywhere from 2 to 100 rounds of ammunition depending on the style, model, make and caliber of the firearm. Various types of firearms use detachable box magazines; most commonly bolt action, slide action, and semi-automatic.

The standard capacity of removable box magazines for rifles has been 30 rounds for decades. 30 round magazines are the most popular and widely distributed type in the Country. I believe it is safe to speculate that there are millions of 30 round magazines owned by law abiding Pennsylvanians. Magazine capacity does nothing to affect the rate of fire or efficiency of a firearm. The rate of fire is the same with a 10 round magazine as it is with a 30 round magazine. Banning a particular "size" of magazine does nothing to stop a criminal from committing atrocities. As a matter of fact, the evil spree killer who murdered innocent people at Virginia Tech, used mainly 10 round magazines. I think it is reasonable to believe that a criminal would not take the care to use a "ban compliant" magazine when he or she commits a crime.

Magazine bans are as effective in curbing violent criminals from committing crime as limiting the amount of six packs you can carry to your car in one trip prevents people from getting drunk. Magazine bans, like the one recently passed in New Jersey are unenforceable, and immediately criminalizes citizens who have not committed a crime. Their "crime" would be possessing their own private property. There are NO reported cases of criminals in New Jersey turning in their magazines. This kind of legislation does nothing to save lives; it would only criminalize Pennsylvanians for owning a box with a spring in it.

### **Assault Weapon Bans**

Joseph Goebbels would be quite impressed that so many today are repeating Nazi propaganda. There is no such thing as an "Assault Rifle". The term "Assault Rifle" was first coined by the Nazis during World War II. The Sturmgewehr 44 is a fully automatic machinegun. Sturmgewehr translates to "Assault Rifle". It is rumored that Hitler himself came up with the name when they developed the rifle in 1944 because it instilled fear. Perhaps he was more right than he knew. "AR" in the designation "AR-15" stands for ArmaLite Rifle. ArmaLite is the company that Eugene Stoner worked for when he developed the AR in the 1950's. This technology is hardly new and "AR" does NOT stand for "Assault Rifle".

Semi-automatic rifles have been around since the late 1800's. Each time the trigger is pressed, a round is fired and either the recoil or expanding gas from the cartridge is used to mechanically cycle the action, extracting the spent cartridge case, cocking the hammer, and feeding a new cartridge off of the magazine and inserting it into

the chamber. Modern Military rifles are indeed quite different. They are made to handle different pressures, have different metallurgy, different internal components, and are able to be switched to full automatic or 3 round burst.

Millions of Americans own semi-automatic rifles. Banning them would not stop criminals from obtaining them illegally and would likely create a robust black market for stolen contraband rifles. Disarming law abiding citizens only empowers the criminals.

### **Conclusion**

Indeed we live in a culture of violence. Criminals prey upon our fellow Pennsylvanians daily. Everyday any number of over a million licensed Pennsylvanians legally carry firearms in public, without incident. Each day, peoples' lives are saved because they take on the responsibility to arm themselves.

I caution you to not misinterpret the concept of self-defense with aggression or violent tendencies. I, like so many across this country, am armed to defend myself, my family, my Wife, my Son, and those who I love. I take on this responsibility because I know that the government cannot do this and, in fact, has no "legal responsibility" to protect average citizens, only to enforce the law. Only I can efficiently protect my family. It is MY responsibility. When seconds count, the government is minutes away. When government tries to take away my Rights, then government is making my Wife and Son vulnerable to the acts of evil criminals. Do not help criminal by disarming and restricting law abiding Citizens.

"Never in the history of predation has a predator been stopped by disarming its prey."

Kenneth Van Wyk

How many Pennsylvanians have you personally empowered to take on the duty to be their own family first responder? How many Pennsylvanians have you empowered to never again be a victim? How many programs does Michael Bloomberg offer to educate citizens to safely handle firearms? How many citizens has Shira Goodman from CeaseFire PA educated and encouraged to responsibly exercise their Constitutionally guaranteed Rights?

Do not be deceived by those who find solutions in the limitation or restrictions of our Rights and Liberties. New restrictive legislation will do nothing but victimize your constituents. Our strength as a Nation has ALWAYS been found in the free exercise of Rights by an educated citizenry – continue THAT legacy. Further, if we are not willing to make the justice system work, then no level of laws will increase the safety of society. For example, California is the number one most restrictive state in the nation for the ownership of firearms and yet they are the mass murder capital of our nation! Do you, as an elected leader, want to turn Pennsylvania into that?

YOU are in a position of leadership. Step up to your station and exude the character and integrity that was once a requirement of a representative of "The People". Protect our Rights and Liberties; they are yours too. If a person intentionally hurts him or herself, reasonable folks would say that person is sick and needs treatment. Why would you limit or restrict your own Rights and Liberties? You too would be affected by limitations, restrictions or bans. Perhaps you do not exercise your Rights. Perhaps you have taxpayer funded private security. Perhaps you don't feel the need to be protected.

If the government bans, registers, and confiscates firearms and other property from law abiding Americans, then only the government and criminals will be armed. Do you trust President Trump to protect you and your family? Would you trust a President Warren or O'Rourke to protect you and your family? Who could protect you from them?

Advocate the FREE exercise of Rights and promote Liberty as promised by our Constitution that you are sworn to uphold. You have the power to make a real difference and set a positive example. Our founding fathers wrote the Constitution, but it was the "People" that DEMANDED the Bill of Rights. Protect those Rights.... ALL OF THEM. Then we can take steps together to help address the actual causes of Criminal Violence in our culture.

I recognize that you are under constant assault from the very anti-Liberty lobbyists and tyrannical organizations that control some of your colleagues. They are indeed well funded, mobilized and intimidating, but you must stand up to them and stand for law abiding Pennsylvanians.

Remember this: no matter what Beto, Peduto, Bloomberg, and Shira Goodman say, no matter what they offer as "common sense" solutions, the right solution does not involve taking ANY thing or ANY Right away from ANY law abiding Citizen... let that be your guiding principle too.

Don't stand in the way of those Pennsylvanians who exercise their Rights and take on the responsibility of becoming their own family first responder and protect those that they love. Support Constitutional Carry (HB 1412 or SB 830), eliminate Gun Free Zones, and prosecute violent criminals. Cherish Liberty and allow freedom to be a deterrent against evil and help stop elected officials from assaulting the Rights and Liberties of law abiding citizens; enough is indeed enough.

*"The right of the citizens to bear arms in defence of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."  
Article 1 Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution*

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee for affording me the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Yours Most Respectfully,

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