

Re: SB 700

To the Senate Judiciary Committee:

There are undeniable parallels between background checks and voter id.

According to Attorney General Eric Holder:

"many of those without IDs would have to travel great distances to get them – and some would struggle to pay for the documents they might need to obtain them."

"We call those poll taxes,"

"Let me be clear: We will not allow political pretexts to disenfranchise American citizens of their most precious rights,"

While others readily admit; that such efforts clearly disenfranchise and suppress rights; that these efforts are intentional and coordinated precisely to do so; that these are poll taxes. And finally and most ironically, the reason we are here today, is that a facet of jim crow never went out of fashion.

"We are witnessing a concerted effort to place new obstacles in front of minorities, low-income families and young people A poll tax by another name would smell as vile." — Maryland Rep. Steny Hoyer

"These laws are the new Jim Crow laws of our times." —Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin

"They're going after Eric Holder because he is supporting measures to overturn these voter suppression initiatives in the states. This is no accident. It is no coincidence." — House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

"They're pushing laws designed to change election outcomes by reducing voting, repressing turnout and turning the clock back to the days of Jim Crow. This is the exact opposite of where our country needs to go." — Rep. Barbara Lee

Truthfully, none of us want to sell a gun to a criminal. Instead of being combative with us and treating us like the enemy, why not help us in a cooperative manner?

At a minimum the existing SB 700 needs an exception for CHL holders. However, the existing bill needs to be completely replaced. The OSP fee is a poll tax and needs to be eliminated, furthermore we need easy access to the background check system so that we can use it without going through an FFL. This will enable law abiding gun owners to verify the eligibility of the purchaser without serious risk of infringing on anyone's rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Janik

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