

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee,

I find myself once again here at the Legislature, as I have been year after year for decades, trying to point out the flaws in the very existence of the so-called "Background Check" system. And, as always, my entreaties will probably fall on deaf ears, with more of the same sort of ill-advised, ineffectual legislation continuing to be introduced year after year, as though the Legislature were sleepwalking. But "rust never sleeps", and the attacks on our liberties never cease, so I have resigned myself, out of some apparently pointless sense of civic responsibility, to what will apparently be an eternal struggle of whatever degree of futility.

The "background check" system which the Legislature is once again trying to tinker into some appearance of usefulness, is doomed to failure no matter in what machinations the Legislature may indulge. As has been repeatedly pointed out, only those persons of whom society already in some way disapproves - and who, I might add, are for the most part only at large among us due to the Legislature's having hamstrung the courts with lenient sentencing requirements - will fail any "background check". As we have seen repeatedly in several of the mass killings which have occurred of late, any of the perpetrators of these crimes who have no criminal background have passed the background check and gone on to commit their crimes anyway. Moreover, as we have also seen recently, even in countries where firearms ownership is virtually prohibited, they are readily available among the criminal element, who are hardly concerned with ensuring that any "background check" occurs before selling them to their cohorts. As with all such legislation, the measure passed during the 2015 session will be obeyed only by the already law-obiding, since those intent on committing crimes with firearms in no way feel compelled to purchase them legally when they are already intent on committing mayhem with them. But in any discussion with the supporters of this type of legislation they seem incapable of comprehending any of the preceding; impervious to reason, they somehow cannot grasp the simple concept that criminals are people who will not obey the law, any law, no matter how many laws are passed,

Nevertheless, the Legislature continues year after year to try to prop up this ineffective system while squandering funds which might actually be used to try to address the problem - which is, I beg to ask, what? Has the Legislature ever even bothered to ask what the real problem is? Is it mass murders by suicidal maniacs, impossible to stop other than by the immediate presence of an armed defender? Is it gang violence, a social issue of long standing, which really originates in the failure of society to integrate minority populations? Is it terrorism, which is almost exclusively the result of our failed immigration system? I can of course go on, but the point is that somehow no one concerned with what is gratuitously referred to as "Gun Violence", and most notably our Legislatures, whom We the People charge with

the responsibility for addressing these problems, is even trying to identify the core issues, much less trying to solve them.

Instead, our Legislatures focus with singleminded obsession on firearms, in every case seeking ways of restricting access to them, and invariably only affecting those least likely to abuse them: law-abiding citizens, who are the only ones who ever will obey the ever-expanding compendium of "gun laws" and even bother to try to cope with the ever-increasing layers of bureaucracy imposed on anyone who chooses to purchase a firearm. Meanwhile, the killings you claim to want to stop go on apace, with the gun prohibitionists and their servants in the Legislature plodding along with donkey-like persistence, in their misguided and useless obsession with attacking firearms ownership. One is reminded of the quote widely attributed to Einstein, that "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result".

I ask that the Legislature not only reject HB 4147, but repeal all of the laws establishing the useless bureaucracy now dedicated to ineffectively attempting to deny guns to criminals, and redirect the associated useless expenditure of funds to first researching, and then addressing, the root causes of the so-called "gun violence" which is claimed to be such a burgeoning problem. Please, let us stop the madness, and the wanton squandering of taxpayer money on the political agendas of billionaire oligarchs and their irrational, terrified supporters - an outstanding example of Lenin's "useful idiots" if ever such existed - who are funding and staffing this mindless crusade.

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