

To whom it may concern,

Since I am unable to attend this hearing today, I wanted to write a few words on my objection to these proposed amendments.

I have not been in the firearms realm very long nor have I been involved in politics but ever since I started becoming more aware of them as well as how dangerous our society has become it has affected the way I see and perceive the world around me. While I agree that we need some sort of gun control/law(s) (which we already have) to keep those who misuse or may misuse firearms away, I find it very hard to see the reasoning to ban firearms from those who do not misuse or mistreat them, those who carry for protection and those who have them merely to help ward off those with the intent to do something illegal. With these proposals it will be nearly impossible to even own a firearm. How will this change the crime rate? How will this keep us safe? What will you tell the woman or family who is brutally murdered and/or assaulted because they were unable to carry a tool made and meant to be used to help protect them?

As a single mother (and student), I worry every day what the future holds for my child and the children of this day. I worry that this proposal, amongst many, will provoke them to more violence because the restrictions have become so suffocating they feel the urge to find or create their own fresh air. I am afraid she will fall victim to an undeserving end because the laws in place that are meant to protect her fail ed yet again. These proposed laws will not stop the criminals or crimes. These proposed laws are only meant to keep law-abiding citizens from having any freedom and offering aide.

Statistics show that every two minutes a woman becomes a victim of sexual assault, one in every 12 women are stalked, every 26 seconds a violent crime happens and one aggravated assault happens every 35 seconds. One in every 5 women have been raped and are assault survivors. These are just some of the statistics Damsel in Defense has provided on their website to help bring awareness to anyone who will listen and to help empower women by promoting items that will help keep them from becoming one of these statistics. One of the many items they offer are conceal and carry purses.

You spend all of your time highlighting the horrible events that happen with firearms but what about the good things? For example, the citizens who help stop mass shootings or come to the aide of others in dire need. How about those who help law enforcement? What about the woman who protected her children by stopping a car thief from stealing her car with her children inside by shooting them? According to the NRA, firearms are used over 2 million times for personal protection and crimes are prevented merely by having the weapon displayed without using it. Citizens are also know to stop or kill over twice as many criminals as law enforcement. Banning gun owners from public places will create an environment where the public becomes unsafe. You will be leaving men, women and children defenseless and making them an even bigger target than they already are. This could significantly increase the crime rate.

Instead of taking away our rights and banning firearms, educate citizens. Teach them. Rear them up as you would a child. Ask yourselves this question, "Would you willing to give up your freedom?" If the answer is no, then why ask it if us? Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Natasha Hill