

Submitter: Christopher Barnes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

To the Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 3076, which introduces a state licensing program for gun dealers. While the bill's stated goal is to enhance public safety, I believe it creates unnecessary burdens for legitimate businesses, infringes on the rights of law-abiding citizens, and fails to address the root causes of gun violence.

The Second Amendment guarantees the individual right to keep and bear arms. A state licensing program for gun dealers infringes upon the rights of both dealers and responsible gun owners. By imposing additional regulations on gun dealers, the state would make it more difficult for citizens to lawfully purchase firearms. This creates an unnecessary hurdle for individuals seeking to exercise their constitutional rights. Rather than focusing on lawful gun dealers and owners, the state should focus its efforts on combatting illegal gun trafficking and criminal activity, which are the primary drivers of gun violence.

The licensing requirements in HB 3076 would impose substantial administrative and financial burdens on gun dealers, particularly small, family-owned businesses. These dealers would face costly and time-consuming procedures that could increase their operational costs, potentially leading to higher prices for consumers. The added complexity of state-level regulation could even force small businesses to close or limit their services, reducing market competition and access to firearms. This could have a detrimental effect on both consumers and local economies.

While the licensing of gun dealers is often proposed as a solution to gun violence, this bill does little to address the underlying causes of gun crime. Gun violence is largely driven by the illegal possession and trafficking of firearms by criminals. Focusing on regulating lawful gun dealers will not stop illegal gun sales or violent crime. More effective solutions would include strengthening background checks, improving the enforcement of existing laws, and focusing on initiatives aimed at reducing violence through education, mental health support, and more effective policing. A state licensing program for gun dealers will not solve these deeper societal issues.

The implementation of a state licensing program opens the door to government overreach. The potential for selective enforcement or arbitrary denial of licenses based on political or ideological considerations could undermine the fairness of the licensing process. Such overreach could create a dangerous precedent where the

government could use bureaucratic power to limit access to firearms, even without legitimate public safety concerns. This could disproportionately affect certain groups or individuals and lead to misuse of government authority.

Gun dealers are already subject to stringent federal regulations, including background checks, record-keeping requirements, and compliance with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). By creating a state-level licensing program, HB 3076 would create a redundant regulatory framework that adds complexity without providing any additional value to public safety. The duplication of federal and state regulations would create confusion for gun dealers and consumers, making compliance more difficult and less effective.

In conclusion, HB 3076 represents an unnecessary and counterproductive step toward regulating gun dealers in the state. The bill would create burdens for law-abiding businesses, infringe on the rights of responsible gun owners, and fail to effectively address the root causes of gun violence. The focus should instead be on enforcing existing laws and investing in community-based solutions that target criminal activity and gun violence. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject HB 3076 and reconsider more effective ways to enhance public safety without undermining individual rights or harming local businesses.

Sincerely,
Christopher Barnes