

Submitter: Charles Ferguson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

As an unpaid, volunteer peace officer in this state, I see what gun violence looks like. This bill does absolutely nothing to change the fact that the gun crime I see is overwhelmingly committed by people who are already barred from owning or purchasing firearms (felons and juveniles), yet have obtained them illegally. The fact that they are above the law, and law abiding citizens must now take a class on top of their already burdensome background check and concealed handgun course/registration is absurd and blatantly unconstitutional. If this standard was equally applied to any other constitutional right, how would the public react? A right delayed is a right denied, and a right you must have permission/permit for is not a right at all. Also, the magazine ban would not only restrict effectively all magazines (which can be readily modified, which is effectively all modern magazines), but law enforcement will now be restricted to roughly half of the standard capacity for which the issued mags typically contain. I'm sorry, but that's a dangerous precedent all it's own for law enforcement officers who risk their lives to protect the public. Instead, we should emphasize protection of gun-free zones and compare ourselves with cities and states with the strictest firearm laws on the books. Why are their firearm crime rates so much higher, despite the restrictions that the criminals clearly do not follow? Measure 114 was ruled unconstitutional for good reason.