

Submitter: Stephen Burdett  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I oppose 114 for the following reasons:

I believe that stricter gun laws are not the solution to the issues we face as a society. First and foremost, the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees my right to keep and bear arms. This right is fundamental to the freedoms we enjoy, and any attempt to limit or infringe upon it undermines the principles this country was founded on. The government should not dictate how I protect myself or my family.

For me, owning a gun is not just about recreation—it's about personal safety. I live in a world where threats can emerge unexpectedly, and in those moments, I should have the ability to defend myself. Relying solely on law enforcement isn't always realistic; they can't be everywhere at once. A gun gives me the means to protect myself in dangerous situations when every second counts.

I also believe that gun control laws don't effectively reduce crime. Criminals don't follow laws—they break them. So, what happens when law-abiding citizens are disarmed? We are left vulnerable, while criminals continue to find ways to acquire firearms illegally. Instead of creating more laws that restrict my rights, we should focus on enforcing existing laws, prosecuting illegal gun possession, and addressing the root causes of crime like poverty, education, and mental health.

It's important to remember the historical context. The right to bear arms has been part of our culture since the founding of this country. Guns were essential for survival, self-defense, and ensuring liberty, especially when the government was far from our homes. Even today, owning a firearm is a critical safeguard against potential tyranny, ensuring that citizens have the power to resist any form of government overreach.

Instead of limiting gun ownership, I think the focus should be on personal responsibility. I support education and training programs that teach safe and responsible gun use. Responsible gun ownership can help reduce accidents and ensure that when people do use firearms, they are doing so safely and appropriately.

Lastly, restricting guns for law-abiding citizens won't stop the flow of illegal firearms. The black market will always find a way to supply criminals. Rather than making it harder for responsible people like myself to own firearms, we should focus on cracking down on illegal trafficking and improving enforcement of current laws.

In conclusion, I oppose stricter gun laws because they infringe upon my constitutional

rights, hinder my ability to protect myself, and are ineffective in addressing the root causes of crime. Law-abiding citizens shouldn't be punished for the actions of criminals.