

15 Jul 98

**Testimony re. HB 1484 printer' number 1776 dated 8 May 97 "Handgun Safety Standards".**

Page 2, lines 6 & 7 - clarify "personalized guns". This term is not among definitions. See also page 2, lines 25 & 26.

Page 2 lines 25 & 26 - "...personalized guns which can only be fired by the authorized user." How is this possible? Gun locks? Gun locks make handguns useless for emergency self-defense situations. Please be fair in your use of statistics and state in this bill how many times per year people are saved by handguns from death, rape, and robbery.

Page 3, lines 4, 5, 8, 21, & 27 - The term "firearm" is used, however guns other than handguns are referred to as firearms. This bill is about handguns, therefore delete the word firearm and change it to handgun.

Page 3, lines 20 & 21 - The bill refers to "...any combination of parts from which a firearm (handgun) can be assembled." This is an admission that, if forced to, gun enthusiasts can and will make their own handguns.

Page 3, line 27 - "...any firearm" again surpasses the scope of this bill... This bill being entitled "Handgun Safety Standards".

Page 3, lines 28 & 29 - The public will probably be amazed to learn that a "person" is defined as not only any individual, but also a "...corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society or joint stock company."

Page 4, lines 1, 3, 5 - change "firearms" to "handguns".

Page 4, lines 13 thru 20 - Gun owners should have greater representation on the governor's commission to establish safety standards for the use of handguns. Emphasis should be placed on safe usage of handguns.

Page 5, lines 16 thru 18 - "A handgun must be personalized so that it can only be fired when operated by that handgun's authorized user or users." Is there any other way to do this than by trigger lock? Trigger locks render handguns useless in emergency self-defense situations.

Page 5, lines 19 thru 21 - "The technology creating personalized handguns shall be incorporated into the design of the handgun and be part of its original equipment and not an accessory." This means all existing handguns will be turned into scrap metal.

Page 5, lines 22 thru 24 - "Personalized handguns shall not be manufactured to permit the personalized characteristics to be readily deactivated." Again, a clear statement that such handguns will be useless in an emergency situation where the owners life, or someone else's life, are in immediate peril.

Page 5, lines 29 & 30 - "...independent laboratories for determining whether handguns comply...". More tax dollars being spent.

Page 6, lines 6 & 7 - "...submit a prototype of the handgun model for testing, at the manufacturer's cost...". These costs will be passed along to handgun buyers. See also line 26.

Page 6, line 23 thru 26 - "...certified personalized handgun ... Shall be imprinted on the approved handguns at the manufacturer's expense." Cost will be passed to buyer.

Page 7, lines 9 thru 15 - "On or after four years from the date of the adoption of the commission's original standard, handguns that do not meet the standard prescribed by the commission pursuant to this subchapter shall not be manufactured, possessed, sold, offered for sale, traded, transferred, shipped, leased, distributed or acquired in this Commonwealth." Page 8, lines 4 through 9 allow owners to keep their handguns which do not comply with the

commission's standards ... a right they already have ... But does not allow owners to pass their handguns down to their heirs. An entire industry based upon resale and trading will be upended and tax revenues will be lost.

Page 7, line 18 - "...Constitutional constraints...". The United States Bill of Rights Second Amendment states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania states in the Declaration of Rights Article 1 Section 21, "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned." The reference to the bill language "Constitutional constraints" is acknowledged to refer to constraints on police searches and seizures, but begs the question should there be any constraint on the right to bear arms.

Page 8, lines 10 thru 18 - "Handguns purchased by police ..." etc. are exempted from the commission's standards. This implies that handguns in responsible hands are OK as is. That means the emphasis should be on responsible handling of handguns instead of costly restrictive personalization of handguns.

Page 8, line 21 - "...possessing ... Commits a felony of the third degree." The possession of a non-standard handgun is made a third degree felony in this paragraph. This contradicts Section 6185 (a) (2) above.

Page 8, lines 27 & 28 - "...altering... possessed... felony of the third degree." The word altering implies acknowledgement that "standard" handguns can be altered. Again, responsible handling should be emphasized rather than "personalization". The word "possessed" contradicts Section 6185 (a) (2).

Page 9, lines 4 & 5 - "... possessors ... trades, transfers ...". This states an owner cannot pass his handgun to an heir.

Respectfully submitted,

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