

HB-638

Brian Caine

Position: Oppose

The proposed bill, "AN ACT concerning Public Safety - Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms" is yet another misguided attempt to solve a problem that doesn't exist, wasting valuable state resources in the process.

I wish to express that I oppose this bill.

The fact of the matter is, homemade gunsmithing does not cause any significant amount of gun violence. To someone unfamiliar with firearms, maybe it makes sense that if we can have an easier time tracing the path of a gun used in a crime, perhaps we can intimidate the supply chain with harsher sentences. Maybe that would make illegal guns more expensive.

To that same person, they probably imagine that the only thing making it hard to acquire a gun illegally are the serial numbers. Surely there's some paperwork somewhere where there's a person we can hold responsible, right?

This is a common misunderstanding, but it shows a profound ignorance about the economics of illegal guns in the US. Frankly speaking, the supply chain in the US is *flush* with all the untraceable, factory-made guns any motivated criminal could need. Serial number records for millions and millions of guns have been non-existent for a long time.

And if we compare the factory-made guns to the homemade hobbyist pieces, home gunsmithing requires a significant investment of time, effort, money and talent. They simply cannot compete in the illegal gun market.

Notwithstanding all the aspects of this bill that are unimplementable (ie engraving the caliber on the gun doesn't consider configurable calibers, or frames that cannot support durable engraving), all this bill serves to do is antagonize lawful gun owners and hobbyists. It does not impede gun crime.

I urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report.