
WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF KATIE NOVOTNY IN OPPOSITION OF
HB259

January 30, 2023

I am a member of multiple gun rights organizations. I am a certified Range Safety Officer and an avid firearms collector. I have been before this committee many times advocating for the right to self defense and in defense of an individual's 2nd Amendment rights. I oppose this bill.

This bill is a misguided attempt to punish manufacturers for the actions of third parties. We do not sue Ford, Chevy, or Dodge when someone is killed by a drunk driver operating their products. We don't sue Budweiser or Jim Beam for those deaths either. It makes absolutely no sense to sue a manufacturer for something a third party does. Firearms manufacturers do not even sell to the public. They sell to distributors, who sell to retail establishments, who then sell to the public according to federal and state laws. Simply not liking a particular product, or even wishing they did not exist, in this case, firearms, does not mean you may sue that industry out of existence. Particularly when ownership, and therefore acquisition, is protected by the Bill of Rights.

There are a multitude of legal issues with this bill as well, which I am sure others will address much more eloquently than I am able to. The bottom line is we must hold individuals accountable for their actions, not the manufacturer of an item used illegally.

I request an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

Katie Novotny

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