

8/17/2020

Gentlemen,

My name is Tony Overdirth, a private citizen of Texas.

It is my understanding that you are seeking public input on gun control issues, such as extensive background checks, restrictions on types of firearms/magazines, and laws such as so called 'red flag' laws.

I am a life time supporter of the 2nd Amendment. I have never been charged or convicted of a crime but I feel that I and others like me are being lumped in with those that have broken the law in the past and will continue to do so regardless of the intent of any written laws.

Criminals by definition, break the law and don't care what law you may write or how lofty the intent of that law. When you write laws to control the purchase, selling, gifting of, and types of guns available to the public, the only people who are effected by them are the law abiding citizens who are not the problem and not the criminals who are the source of 99% of the gun problem.

There are too many laws on the books now that are never enforced or are allowed to be used as bargaining chips by the Criminal Justice system. Before you participate in a 'feel good' measure, insure that the laws we now have on the books are enforced. You will find if you did that, you remove the criminal

element from the equation and the magnitude of the problem then becomes manageable.

In the matter of 'Red Flag' laws, I do not see how you can enact these types of laws as envisioned now. They trample on a person's Constitutional Rights. Removing a person's personal property without him being able to face the person alleging that he is a danger to himself or others BEFORE any action is taken is against what our Founding Fathers envisioned. If you allow this to happen, you open up everyone to having his life turned upside down by people with political agendas, personal and racial bias, etc. It would become the 'ultimate get even' tool of those wanting to hurt or embarrass someone they disliked. It is a can of worms you don't want to open. Remember the concepts of, without due process, or innocent till proven guilty, even those in high places can be victimized by this process if it is used with intent to harm and not help. Without an investigation by the proper authorities, a hearing with ALL parties present, and a judge presiding over the process BEFORE any action is taken, we are all susceptible to having these laws used against us in a vindictive manner. Short cuts are never the way to get a safe and effective result and usually end up shining a bright spotlight on the 'Law of Unintended Consequences'.

Please do not burden the law abiding citizens of our state with more laws that the criminals will only laugh at and won't follow anymore that they do all the laws on the books now.

Thank you for your time,

Tony R Overdirth, Jr.