

My name is Peter Hinkle. I am a 49 year old man that has been a firearm collector and enthusiast my entire adult life as well as an apprentice to my father and grandfather well before my teens. The elders in my family taught all of the kids in the family from my earliest memories to treat our firearms with the utmost respect. In my home, tools are respected in the same way bibles are in many homes; with respect, dignity, a quiet professionalism, safety, security, and of course, cleanliness. I only mention these things to make you aware of how I approach this subject.

Over the last 30 years of my adulthood, I have faithfully voted in each and every election, hoping beyond hope that a few people attempting to represent our communities might at the very least have some base level of understanding of firearms considering they will most certainly be confronted with some form of yet another proposed piece of legislation guaranteed to strip law abiding American citizens of yet more of their rights. I'd just like to ask any of you and all of you to take a long look into the future. When will it be enough? There are already 1,000's of gun laws on the books in this country; most of them totally without merit or value and many of them causing more harm than good. Try to look at firearms law from a strictly logical sense. I can sum up the total of all the needed gun laws in a free America.

- 1) Murder is illegal
- 2) Shooting anyone for any reason other than self defense or in the defense of others is illegal
- 3) Brandishing is illegal
- 4) Threatening someone with a firearm for any reason other than self defense is illegal
- 5) Coercion with a gun is illegal.
- 6) Firing a gun within the city limits for any reason other than self defense is illegal

That's it. All of the rest is simply political fluff. As long as these things are illegal, we simply don't need all of the extraneous drivel. In a country where we are supposed to be the beacon of freedom, we have ridiculous laws on the books like the National Firearms Act that is nothing more than a tax collection scheme. There is simply zero reason why in this age that an adult cannot walk into a licensed gun store and purchase a silencer, short barreled rifle or shotgun, do a background check, and walk out the same day with their purchase. Even in countries with horrendous gun tyranny an adult can do this. These laws were a mistake then, and they are a mistake now. And just as a heads up, silencers are no way near as quiet as the movies portray them to be. Many of them don't even make your firearm hearing safe to OSHA standards without hearing protection. They simply make shooting safer and more pleasant for the shooter and the surrounding people. I beg you to be thoughtful and reasonable. Adding more laws simply will not change a thing other than making things harder for the law abiding people of this state and take us just one step closer to tyranny and complete loss of liberty. We are reaching the point of boil over. We do not want this in Texas.

THE ABSOLUTE LAST THING IN THE WORLD WE WANT IS ANY KIND OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL "RED FLAG CONFISCATION ORDERS"

There are a few things that must stop in the realm of law enforcement. Any talk of passing laws that allow law enforcement to steal property from citizens **WITHOUT DUE PROCESS** is an **ABOMINATION** to our Republic and Constitution. We also must stop no knock warrants for all but the most serious situations. How many innocent gun owners need to be awake at 4:00AM from pounding by either unannounced officers or citizens still half asleep that are startled and scared, don't realize the people at their door are officers and come to their own door on their own property, only to be shot and killed by incompetent, improperly trained, officers. We don't need to defund the police, they need more training! More money, more education, and less militarization!

All you have to do is look at history. These anti-freedom, and moreover, **ANTI-TEXAN** laws are an affront to our liberty. We must put a stop to the continuing erosion of our freedoms. The great State of Texas was founded on the principles of freedom, personal responsibility, self defense, honor, the golden

rule, and simply doing the next right thing. In a year of sheer insanity by some that push an anti-American agenda, full of misleading propaganda and outright lies about who Americans are as a people, can't we get back to some rational sense? Texas does not need any more firearm laws. Everything that needs to be illegal, already is. And one more thing about Red Flag Gun Confiscation orders, take a look at nearly every red flag law on the books in nearly any state in the union. Most fail to mention mental health even in passing. The only interest lies in confiscating private property without due process. And once these officers take your property without due process guess what happens; they walk away. They walk away leaving the person that was so dangerous according to them that they needed to forcefully confiscate his property. But now that they have, they simply leave him at home now angry as hell about being robbed by the people sworn to protect him with no mental health treatment, no trip to the hospital. No nothing. All they wanted was his guns. Nearly every Red Flag Confiscation Order on the books in this country operates exactly like this. Remember, it's the person that's supposedly dangerous, not the inanimate tool. By leaving him to his own resources and only taking the guns, he could very simply go find/ buy/or borrow another weapon if he is truly intent on harm. These laws make no sense. Period.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts. I truly hope that as you make your decision, you remember that you are making it for everyone. It's never right to punish everyone due to the deeds of the few worst in a society. Freedom isn't free. Freedom isn't safe; but it is the only way to live and we must continue to work toward less government and greater liberty. Thank you.