

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 909

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM

Hearing Date: March 15, 2021 2:00 PM

Aimee Turney

League of Women Voters of Texas

Austin, TX

The League of Women Voters of Texas SUPPORTS HB 909, a bill designating June as Firearm Safety Awareness Month.

Marilyn Hartman

Member and Advocate, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas

Austin, TX

I support this bill. As an advocate for persons with serious mental illness, I know that firearms are the deadliest method of suicide. To designate June as Firearm Safety Awareness Month, we can shine a light on the problems of firearms, their safe storage, and the need for more inclusive background checks.

Skyler Korgel

Self, Manufacturing Engineer

Weatherford, TX

I support HB 909 and urge the committee to report this bill favorably.

Firearm safety is a serious topic in our state and awareness of firearm safety practices saves Texan health and lives, especially those of our children and young Texans.

Please support HB 909 and safe gun use & storage measures in Texas.

Harold Waters

self

Houston, TX

This is a bad bill and should not be passed. It is a cover for state backed anti gun propaganda. There is no place for this type of legislation. Please vote no on this bill.

Daniel Wiggins

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Hi,

I'm writing to ask the committee vote no on this bill. This could easily be used to spread anti-gun messages.

Shelby Feltner

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Self

Huntsville, TX

OPPOSE this bill! This sets up dangerous anti-gun policies. As a woman, about 8 years ago, I was followed to my car by a man. I had just left the grocery store and the parking lot was full. He stood in between me and car door, he wouldn't let me get in. I ran to the other side of my car and crawled in through the passenger side. If you send anti-gun messaging, WOMEN will be left out to dry. Don't do this to us.

Woodrow Carter

Self - Retired

LIVINGSTON, TX

I oppose this bill, please vote NO.

Chris Tong

Self/ sales

Pearland, TX

I understand that the idea of a "Firearm Safety Awareness" month may sound constructive, but this is only a way that easily presents an anti-gun message that guns are dangerous and have no value here in Texas.

Scott Brosi

GOA

DALLAS, TX

I OPPOSE THIS BILL EVERYDAY IS FIREARMS SAFETY DAY

Ryan Pedraza

Ryan Pedraza Family

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppse this bill. A Firearm safety month is a great idea but Firearms are important and are great tools to be learned about and respected for protection, food harvesting, and all other rights given by our Constitution.

Tracy Phillips

Self/Online Administrative Services

Gatesville, TX

Texas does not need any additional gun laws or months dedicated to gun safety. We need less laws. This is how it starts, inch by inch the legislators start taking away your 2nd amendment rights under the guides of safety, i.e. gun free zones, red flag laws, etc. I know this for a fact as I moved here from a blue state that did exactly that. Please tell me I didn't make a mistake moving to the Great/Free state of Texas only to have my rights taken away. We should be more like Florida!

Bryce Willmann

Myself

San Antonio, TX

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

I am opposed to this bill because it establishes June as a "Firearm Safety Awareness" month, but in a way that easily presents an anti-gun message that guns are dangerous and have no value.

Steve Lyautey

Personal Card

ARLINGTON, TX

This is to inform the committee that we do not need an entire month to promote gun safety. Responsible firearms owners such as myself practice and teach gun safety 12 months a year. We do not need more legislative meddling being piled on gun owners under the guise of more authoritarianism by the state. Kill this bill immediately, it's ridiculous.

Chuck Magers, Retired

Retired self

Alba, TX

Every day in Texas and across America is gun safety day and we are aware of this. No need for a special month . The far left and Democrats will assume that is the only time we think of safety .

Danny Mitchell

self, retired

Leonard, TX

I am opposed to any legislation that intends to put restrictions on my second amendment rights and will remember those who support it when I cast my vote.

RONALD TIMOTHY

-- please select a prefix --

Commerce, TX

Guns are not evil. In addition to recreation guns can fill the gap where police cannot be everywhere at all times. Guns in the home provide a deterrent to home invasion. School shootings could have been prevented except for laws that took guns from teachers and principals who were left defenseless. The criminal element will look for the easiest way to have it's way. The bible gives us the lesson of Cain and Able which shows us that there will always be those who are motivated by their own nature to commit evil acts. The Cain element is deterred by law and consequence. Guns provide a barrier of safety and everyone should understand that. This bill makes guns seem bad and should be voted out.

Alan Braxton

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

I am opposed to this bill it is a waste of taxpayer money and not necessary thank you

Timothy Dugger

Self

Coppell, TX

Please don't support this bill.

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Tyler Harris
Self/Delivery Driver
Conroe, TX

Any firearm safety awareness should be used to show pre-existing firearm safety courses and responsible, law-abiding gun ownership in a positive light. If we want to make a difference in the lives of Texans, we should focus more on the positive aspects of responsible gun ownership and the benefits of educating those who wish to exercise their rights with responsibility and encouraging more people to do the same. Furthermore, let's use a month to show awareness for intoxicated and reckless driving, which is an issue that puts more Texans in danger on a much more regular basis. I love my home state and I am proud of the fact that we have always celebrated exercising our rights safely and responsibly. We need to focus our attention on things that have a daily impact on the safety of our people. Demonizing firearm ownership does nothing to help that cause. But spreading awareness of the dangers presented by intoxicated and reckless driving would make a much larger difference. Please help preserve and reinforce Texan's reputation as people who enjoy exercising our second amendment rights responsibly and use bills like this to spread awareness of things that pose a much greater risk to the lives and safety of our citizens and their families.

Murray Connor
Self
New Braunfels, TX

What is the main purpose of this legislation? Can it be used to promote gun control and restrictions on already safe and responsible citizens?

Firearms safety information is readily available online from both governmental and private websites. There is zero reason for this bill to pass.

Shane Gilbert
GOA
Round Rock, TX

I oppose this bill and encourage you to kill it due to the fact that it may allow anti-gun propaganda and rhetoric to be disseminated to the public. Please support the US Constitution and the second amendment rights of Texans.

Richard Hanson
Self
El Paso, TX

Waste of time while pressing issues need addressing. First rule should be to let people make their own decisions re. priorities and lifestyle.

Michael Boswell, Mr.
Concerned Citizen
San Angelo, TX

While firearm safety is important this bill will send a wrong message to many. The money would be better spent on actual training.
Thanks, David

Christopher Mckenzie
Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Self

ROWLETT, TX

Hello, I a private citizen oppose this bill, on the grounds of misrepresentation and a general lack of education. How dose this bill accomplish this? By not giving or providing the true facts of firearms ownership and market value. Having a month for firearms safety should be a month where actual firearms safety courses are taught as well as the do's and don't of owning a firearm. Also the fact that firearms have and economic value, a value that dose not fluctuate as easily as our stock markets. So if those items are not taught all thought during that month. Then no we do not need a firearms safety awareness month.

Zakare Waddell

Self, Production Manager

Bonham, TX

I, as a law abiding Texan, oppose this action, as it could easily be turned into anti-gun/anti-freedom/anti-Texan/anti-American propoganda. Children should be taught firearm safety by their parents, and maybe in school by NRA or GOA instructors, and in such a way as to be instructional and pro-freedom, rather than wasting tax dollars on a program like this.

Arthur Simon

self, artist

Austin, TX

I support this bill because gun violence is preventable with enough emphasis on gun safety, Texas would do well to adopt this designation.

Jeff Huntley

Personal

North Richland Hills, TX

I respectfully oppose HB909 on the ground that this will open the door for anti-firearms organizations to take advantage of in the illicit promoting that firearms are dangerous and have no real value. Firearms are not different than any other tool people utilize. It's the intent of the person possessing the tool on whether it is misused or not. Safety messages are well promoted within the firearms community. Numerous safety classes are taught, and many firearm organizations promote safety on a daily basis. I believe if this bill passes it would only be taken advantage of. Thanks for your time.

David GLOVER

Self

Silsbee, TX

Rep. Gervin-Hawkins,

I don't think that firearm safety awareness should be regulated to a month. As a legal gun owner, firearm safety is an everyday awareness. The firearm itself is not dangerous. I have yet to see or hear any of my equipment fire themselves.

I appreciate your concern for this subject but please consider channeling your efforts into making the ILLEGAL use of a firearm much more detrimental. The right to keep and bear arms is a God given right. The lawful citizen wants to protect his family and property and is, by extension, always concerned for the safety of their families.

Thank you,
David Glover

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Raymond Leighman

Self - Consultant

Tyler, TX

This Bill would easily present an opportunity for an anti-gun message that guns are dangerous and have no value. I oppose this Bill

Chris Edmiston

Self

Austin, TX

We really do not need another month dedicated to the sole purpose of pushing a political agenda. There is nothing that prevents anyone from spreading their opinions, so the question is WHY would we need a law to enable it?

The vague language leaves me suspicious that this would force communities to preach things in which they do not agree with. Further, it's not clear to me whether this would enable the use of tax-payer dollars to fund political propaganda, as events and activities are rarely ever cost-free.

Connelly Palmer

Self

Dallas, TX

This is another way of saying guns are dangerous month spreading fear to all the uneducated liberals out there. Why don't we call august Car safety month and teach people to use their blinkers? It won't matter because bad drivers don't care just like criminals don't care about your gun safety rules and your background checks. This is a gimmick and Texans don't want it.

Ricky Batross

SELF

Itasca, TX

Please vote down this Bill if the language constitutes any denigration of firearms or firearm ownership.

Wayne Wilks

self, UnionWireman

Fort Worth, TX

This bill is too vague. I fear that the anti-gunners will use this a steppingstone for their gun control propaganda. I oppose this bill.

Alvin Chang

Self - Engineer

Farmers Branch, TX

"Firearm Safety Awareness" is a masquerade for anti-gun, anti-constitutional redirect aimed at pointing fingers at guns when in fact criminals who break the law using guns or knives or various other means are responsible. Guns save lives. Guns protect property and loved ones. Guns are a God-given and constitutional right! Enough of this nonsense when illegals are pouring in and police are being defunded!

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Joe Chambers

N/A

Channing, TX

OPPOSE HB 909

Mike Amper

GOA Texas

McKinney, TX

This bill easily presents an anti-gun message that guns are dangerous and have no value. Opens the door for out of state Anti-Second amendment groups to pour money into Texas on a targeted basis to shape public opinion to "infringe" on a constitutional right. There is an enormous amount of information available to educate and promote firearms safety to both seasoned and new firearms owners. This bill could disenfranchise people via scare tactics messaging who want to become new firearms owners from exercising their constitutional right.

John Sims

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Please vote against this bill.

Donald Dahl

SELF, FIREARMS RIGHTS ACTIVIST

ROUND ROCK, TX

Even though firearms safe use is very important HB 909 does absolutely nothing to enhance firearms safety.

Jim Davis

Self

Melissa, TX

Please vote no on this bill.

Keith Castleberry, Pastor

Victory Church

Iola, TX

I oppose this bill, as it is only a subtle attempt to make firearms the cause of crime. This is not the source of crime, and should not be the focus of our legislators time, nor the focus of our communities. I encourage you to vote AGAINST this bill, and instead focus your attention on personal responsibility. We should encourage gun ownership.

Debbie chan

self

MCKINNEY, TX

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Please oppose HB 909 as it is a misleading bill. The focus for the leaders and citizens of Texas should actually be on the benefits of firearms for keeping families safe and allowing people to exercise the right of self-defense. Firearms should be promoted and encouraged, not demonized. 97.3% of mass shootings from 1950 through April 2018 were in places where law-abiding citizens were prohibited from carrying firearms. It's a fact criminals prey on unarmed citizens.

William Bursik

self

RICHARDSON, TX

This proposal is just another ploy to try and put firearms in a negative light. If it was more about true safety it might be valeyable, but as it stands this is worthless and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Julianne Adams, Ms

self

Kerrville, TX

As a responsible citizen, voter and firearm owner, I am opposed to this bill which carries a strong implication that owners of firearms need to be directed and counseled about how to use and store their arms safely. As a responsible adult, I do not need the counsel of community leaders making admonishments about firearms which presuppose that the arms and those who own them may be irresponsible and dangerous. This bill begins a slide down a very slippery slope. I request stopping it in committee.

Douglas Barmore

self, data analyst

Katy, TX

I OPPOSE. This will do nothing to help gun safety and is an infringement upon our gun rights. We have the right to KEEP and BEAR arms, which means we have the right to the MANNER in which we keep and bear arms. I OPPOSE THIS and all other anti-gun legislation. If you want gun safety, mandate gun safety training in schools.

Danny Ward

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

I oppose HB 909. We need to address firearms in a positive light and not a negative one. These tactics are used to paint firearms as negative. Firearms have done more to protect people than people are aware of because of propaganda like is. We don't need this.

MaryAnn Surridge

Self

Colorado City, TX

Opposed as a new resident

Jessica Greenert

Self/ Route Coordinator

Bacliff, TX

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

I oppose this bill. The Bill is not actually promoting gun safety, but rather diminishing the usage of guns safely, by locking them up where they cannot be accessed readily. True gun safety is practiced daily by gun owners, by shooting regularly, knowing your target and what's behind/around it, and never putting your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

David Temple

Self - homebuilder

Austin, TX

This Bill, while purporting to encourage firearms safety (which I of course strongly support,) does so in a way that invites misuse. It allows for a slanted message that presents firearms in a negative light, and is designed to foment public opinion that firearms have no positive value. Please oppose this obviously partisan bill, which, if passed, will surely play a part in eroding our constitutional right to self-defense.

Garry Tucker, Mr

Self

Port Neches, TX

I am opposed to HB 909 by Rep. Gervin-Hawkins – which claims it establishes June as a “Firearm Safety Awareness” month, but in a way that easily presents an anti-gun message that guns are dangerous and have no value.

Rebeca tucker

Self

Liberty, TX

I am opposed to HB 909 by Rep. Gervin-Hawkins – which claims it establishes June as a “Firearm Safety Awareness” month, but this bill does nothing but devalue guns and paint them as the enemy

Larry Vaughan, Captain

Self/ Pilot

Amarillo, TX

Please oppose this bill. It is designed to send a negative impression of gun ownership.

Thomas Tucker

Self

Liberty, TX

I am opposed of HB 909 by Rep. Gervin-Hawkins – it makes an anti-gun message that guns are dangerous and have no value.

William Butcher

Self

Bryan, TX

Oppose - The government should bring t take any stance on a Constitutional right. Every month for gun owners is gun safety month. But the government creating an awareness campaign will devolve into nothing put anti-gun propaganda.

Lee Nakasone

Self

Conroe, TX

I oppose this proposed bill. Firearm safety awareness is being co-opted by anti-2nd Amendment advocates to mean that firearms are dangerous. So much so that no one should own a firearm or that there should be government-mandated training in order to purchase and own one. There are lots of pro-2nd Amendment organizations and groups who advocate and teach firearm safety. And for a lot of them, they work with people at little to no cost; as it should be. I implore all elected officials to vote in opposition to this bill.

Debbie Smith

Self

Port Neches, TX

I am opposed to HB 909 by Rep. Gervin-Hawkins – which claims it establishes June as a “Firearm Safety Awareness” month, represents guns as dangerous and pointless.

Drew Hollinger

self retired

League City, TX

Just because it is firearm safety month means nothing, absolutely nothing. People are going to do what ever they want, and if they are stupid enough to get someone killed or injured this bill will not make any difference. Remember what Buba Gump said "stupid is as stupid does" Meaning you cant fix STUPID.

Pat Crawford

Self retired

Garrison, TX

I oppose this HB 909

Candido Bernabe II, Mr.

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Fire Arms Awareness should inform the public of the value that firearms provide as they preserve freedom and self protection. This should be explained withing the scope of history and in truth, especially in the founding of this country. If this is not the case, then I oppose this bill.

If defensive gun use is common then many criminals should certainly have encountered armed resistance. Professors James D. Wright and Peter Rossi surveyed 2,000 felons incarcerated in state prisons across the United States. Wright and Rossi reported that 34% of the felons said they personally had been "scared off, shot at, wounded, or captured by an armed victim"; 69% said that they knew at least one other criminal who had also; 34% said that when thinking about committing a crime they either "often" or "regularly" worried that they "[m]ight get shot at by the victim"; and 57% agreed with the statement, "Most criminals are more worried about meeting an armed victim than they are about running into the police." (James D. Wright & Peter H. Rossi, *Armed and Considered Dangerous: A Survey of Felons and Their Firearms* [1986].

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed, as they are in almost every country in Europe." - Noah Webster (1787, Pamphlets on the Constitution of the US)

Richard Blake

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Self

Tyler, TX

I am **STRONGLY** opposed to this bill. There is **NO** legislation that can stop **ANYONE** hell-bent on evil from committing a crime. All restrictive laws do is punish law abiding citizens and restrict their right and ability to protect themselves and their families.

Rhonda Davidson

Self/court clerk

El Paso, TX

I oppose this bill as it indicates guns are dangerous and is a gateway to other more harmful legislation. Please vote against this bill.

Kevin Wasp

Self

Anna, TX

Firearm safety is upheld 24/7, 365 by responsible gun owners. Having a "Safety Awareness Month" implies that gun owners are not responsible in their own safety. Every month is firearm safety month in the real world. Perhaps change this to a "Self-defense Firearm Use Awareness Month" if you want to be serious about it. I renounce this bill as another method to promote the anti-gun narrative.

L Lane, Mr.

self, GOA

Humble, TX

HB 909 is simply not needed. Most Texans understand the nature of and utility of personal arms, those that do not will not be touched by such messaging. When, in a year or two, opponents of arms ownership find this effort useless, they will demand more restrictive measures.

Timothy Kelley

Self

DEER PARK, TX

Greetings from a Native Texan,

I am opposed to this bill because it sends a false message that guns are dangerous. This can not be true since none of mine have ever shot anyone. This opens the door for liberal, un-Americans to push an anti-gun agenda. Please kill this hideous bill. God bless y'all and God bless Texas!

Kenneth Cunningham

self

PORTER, TX

I oppose this, guns are used to deter crime and save lives every day, I've experienced this firsthand, we dont need any more negative sentiment about firearm ownership. Encourage training and stop trying to brainwash people into thinking inanimate objects are evil.

Ted Moore

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Self

north richland hills, TX

I encourage Texas law makers to oppose the anti gun bill HB 909. This like any other anti gun legislation is nothing more than emotion at best, and a concerted effort to destroy the Constitutional rights of Texans at worst. The radical left needs to understand that Texans and Americans will no longer tolerate our rights being trampled on.

Peter Hinkle

Self

Boerne, TX

I absolutely oppose this bill as it portends to make firearms themselves out to be evil or out to do harm when the reality is that your firearm is no more evil than your toaster. Used properly, your toaster will make you two to four pieces of nicely browned bread; get in the bathtub with it, that's another story. None of my guns or any of my friends or families guns have ever jumped up and shot anything. None of them have a grievance. They only operate by the will of human beings and unfortunately, some of them are evil and do hold grievances. Some in our country have tried to demonize firearms for many years and have succeeded on some level. Texas must lead the way in ending this disingenuous campaign. Those that do this have an end game. And they have made clear what it is now. That must not be allowed to happen.

Al Benedict

Self

Emory, TX

Please vote against HB909. This bill allows infringement on or diminishment of an individual's second amendment gun rights. Thank You.

Suzanne Mitchell

Texas Democrats

Austin, TX

SUPPORT Gun violence is preventable with enough emphasis on gun safety.

Lisa Crawford, Ms

Self. CSR

Garland, TX

Good afternoon. Please consider this bill and the implications throughly and then vote no. This is nothing more than an attempt to manipulate the people into fear of firearms. The people have had enough fear stocking to last a decade. We do not have an auto safety month or a chainsaw safety month. Don't single out guns for some partisan p pat on the back. Firearm owners are some of the most responsible individuals in this country and this is just an underhanded way to say otherwise. Let's focus on what is good for Texas residents this session and leave the waste of time to the federal government. Thank you.

Angela Downing

Self-accountant

Dallas, TX

My household and I strongly oppose this bill in that it does nothing to actually serve the purpose of encouraging and teaching firearm safety. Firearms are used safely daily by hundreds of Americans to defend themselves, their families, and their

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

communities and neighbors. If the intent is to encourage this practice, this bill should be opposed by the committee.

Thank you,

Ricco Ramos

Self, Real Estate Investor

Houston, TX

Good morning and To Whom it May Concern,

I oppose HB 909. I am a new firearms owner originally from Illinois. In Illinois, I was conditioned to think guns were a negative thing. I was conditioned to think guns are dangerous. The reality is, guns are very safe. It is no different than having big knives in the kitchen. We don't need a "Knife Safety Awareness Month." We need people to use knives wisely in the kitchen. Knives aren't dangerous, but a person using them with malice is where the real problems are. Mainly, these are criminal individuals who would care less about a law or any awareness campaign.

Thank you!

Ricco Ramos

Joel Rodriguez

Self

Jersey Village, TX

I oppose this bill as it negatively highlights firearms as dangerous and uses fear tactics against our 2nd amendment as well as our culture and community, we should be highlighting how many law abiding citizens use firearms to protect themselves their family and property. We should be focusing on education and training of firearms and protecting our God given rights that are imbedded into our constitution. We should protect all our constitutional rights as well as recognizing the oath our representatives take when being voted into office.

Beverly Gatlin

Self/Self Employed

Italy, TX

I OPPOSE this Bill, as gun owners feel that every month/day is gun safety month/day. Gun Safety is practiced every day.

Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

HB909 does not celebrate firearms and the fact that they allow law-abiding citizens to feel and BE safe against attack by criminals. This designation represents a WARNING against firearms and puts a bad connotation on our very protections. Vote NO to HB909.

Gina Kleiman, Ms

Self. Registered Nurse

Plano, TX

If the goal was to encourage Texans to stay safe, legislators should be promoting defensive gun use awareness so Texans understand that firearms ownership and carry can dramatically increase personal safety. You'd encourage community residents

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

and leaders to discuss the need for safe and responsible ownership of, training with, and carry of firearms. You'd honor those who have saved their lives and others' because they were prepared to be their own first defenders

This Bill doesn't do that

Mellany Lamb

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Though HB 909 is well-intentioned, I stand in opposition. This bill can easily be misconstrued that a gun is dangerous in reality it can be the person who is dangerous. Also, a firearm used in the name of self-defense is one of the most important rights that we have to protect and defend our families and ourselves if a dangerous situation should arise. We must ensure that one of our most fundamental rights to defend ourselves is not infringed.

Instead of a month designated to firearm safety, I think it would be a better idea if licensed firearm instructors teach safety when a person is seeking to own a firearm and going through the necessary training. Thank you for your consideration of my comments and especially for your service to our State.

Susan Dantzler

Self

Harper, TX

This bill is an appeasement to the anti gun lobby. It serves no real purpose.

April Morris, Mrs.

Self-Small Business Owner

Ben Bolt, TX

I oppose the HB 909 introduced by Gervin-Hawkins. The negative impact and hidden results are concerning. This bill would introduce another way for the over taxation and confiscation of Texans right to carry a firearm. The 2nd ammendment right for ALL Americans shall not be infringed.

Edward Rhodes

Business owners

Abilene, TX

This proposed legislation is attempting to utilize state funding to denigrate and berate gun owner in the eyes of the public. All gun owners are well aware of the safety measures required for safe ownership and safe use of firearms.

James Britton

Self

Greenville, TX

Safety is a good thing, everyone agrees on this. But this bill screams to everyone guns are dangerous and have no value. I strongly oppose this bill, thank you.

Kyle richburg

Self. Insurance

Cypress, TX

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

I oppose this measure. This is an unnecessary waste of time and resources to accomplish nothing substantive. These issues have been and are being used to bully responsible gun owners and promote policies which make it difficult for legal and responsible gun owners to access their firearms for self defense. Estimates from the CDC show that firearms save vastly more responsible gun owners from violent crime than are injured by accidents. We do not need special month to promote policies that are ineffective and counter to the reality that access to firearms saves lives.

John Bolgiano

Self

Llano, TX

I have watched many times as the phrases "Gun Safety," "Responsible Gun Owner," and "Safe Storage" have been used to spread the anti-gun message that firearms are too dangerous to play any role in society. This message ignores the thousands of times firearms are used for recreational purposes in competition or hunting and the more important use as an effective tool of self defense. Firearms safety is not one month. It is an every day part of life, with safe handling, training, practice and daily carry practiced by thousands of Texans. That will not be the message supported by this bill and I stand opposed to HB 909.

Allison Heyward

Self

Schertz, TX

I oppose HB 909 because "Firearm safety" and "responsible gun ownership" are terms that are being co-opted by those who want to propagate a message that guns are dangerous, serve no valuable purpose, and (if owned at all) should be kept locked up where even the owner doesn't have access.

This notion completely disregards the fact that, as stated by the 9th Circuit in *Duncan v. Becerra* (August 2020), "an average of 657 Americans — and perhaps up to 6,849 Americans — use guns to defend themselves every single day of the year." (cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2020/08/14/19-55376.pdf, p. 40).

In reality, for gun owners, every month is gun safety month. And for us, gun safety means that we treat every gun as if it's loaded, we always keep the muzzle in a safe direction, we keep our finger off the trigger until our sights are on the target and we are ready to fire, and we are sure of our target and what is beyond it.

Gun safety also means that we keep our firearms with us to have access to them. We are ready to protect ourselves and others if needed. I ask that you oppose HB 909.

Sue Benedict

Self

Emory, TX

Please vote against HB909. This bill allows infringement on or diminishment of an individual's second amendment gun rights. Thank You.

Gabriel Gaitan, Support pro-gun bills instead of anti-gun bills

GOA, self

Brownsville, TX

Greetings,

I am Gabriel Gaitan, today as your constituent, I oppose HB 909, this bill does nothing but provide anti-gunners a message to tell people that guns are a hazard and present no value. This is a clear violation of our 2nd amendment rights and its relevancy. Thanks for your time, I look forward for your response.

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Sincerely,

Gabriel Gaitan

Christopher Pyle

Self Geologist

Kemah, TX

Oppose

This bill is clearly just going to be used as anti gun propaganda.

Barbara Brashear

Hood County Republican Chair Precinct12.

Granbury, TX

I oppose this bill because I feel guns are necessary for citizens to protect themselves from criminals and an over reaching government. I forefathers saw the necessity in this and I agree. I support the 2nd amendment.

Stacey Roberts

Roberts Ranch

Balmorhea, TX

Dear committee member(s)/representative(s): I am not in favor of this bill for the following reasons: I am a responsible gun owner and the language in this bill does not reflect true gun safety. True gun safety is to keep your gun on your person at all times. True gun safety is practicing and being comfortable with your gun and not doing things like putting your finger on the trigger or pointing your gun towards the object until you are ready to fire. This bill frames "guns" as scary and makes people like me subject to dangerous situations because my gun is not accessible in time to protect myself or my family. Please consider a "No" vote on this bill. Thank you

~Stacey Roberts

Jay Neal

Gun Owners of America

Sweetwater, TX

I oppose this bill. Firearms safety training should never be taught as a negative thing. Instead it should be taught as our second amendment right to bear arms and protect ourselves. Please Oppose or kill this bill.

Dan Laake, Mr.

Self

Katy, TX

Oppose HB909, not good for Texas

Sylvia Coulson

none

Waxahachie, TX

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

I Oppose this because it presents an anti-gun message that guns are dangerous and have no value.

keith vetter

myself

Killeen, TX

I oppose HB 909. Up to 6000 people defend their lives daily with the use of firearms. Trained LTC people need to have firearms on them to defend themselves. Locking up your guns or leaving them home does not make you safer. Practicing and training make you safer.

I don't feel that this HB 909 accomplishes making people safer.

Cecil Lamb, MR

self - Consultant

Boerne, TX

For me and my fellow gun owners, every month is gun safety month. And for us, gun safety means that we treat every gun as if it's loaded, we always keep the muzzle in a safe direction, we keep our finger off the trigger until our sights are on the target and we are ready to fire, and we are sure of our target and what is beyond it. We do this every month of the year and every day of the month. We highlight safety first and foremost with new and inexperienced shooters. The goal of this bill, " to increase awareness of firearm safety and encourage community residents and leaders to discuss the safe and responsible ownership, storage, and use of firearms..." seems like an effort to propagate a message that guns are dangerous, serve no valuable purpose, and (if owned at all) should be kept locked up where even the owner doesn't have access. You should be promoting defensive gun use awareness so Texans understand that firearms ownership and carry can dramatically increase personal safety. You'd encourage community residents and leaders to discuss the need for safe and responsible ownership of, training with, and carry of firearms. That is something that would make ALL Texans safer and increase knowledge and facts about gun ownership rather than using it to accomplish a political goal.

Samuel Alvarado

Constitutionalist of texas

Venus, TX

I would like to strongly suggest this house of representatives that if they are organizing this month as a gun fear spreading month the constituents of this state dont want it. I think that instead of declaring a gun safety month that will most likely just incentivize activists to preach gun control the entire month. I strongly suggest this house instead the government should provide assistance or insentivize the people to get there CHL licenses. Or to pair with gun ranges to promote family firearm training. because gun safety training must start at home and to those who have never had the training they need to go and seek out that training and the most affected communities are the lower class minority communities wich usually dont the have time or the money to go out and persue propper firearm training. I strongly believe that if this house of representatives simply declares a gun safety month activists will hear gun control month and do nothing but spread fear and false propaganda the entire month to advance there anti 2nd amendment agenda.

Thank you very much.

Danielle Sousares

Self, state employee with HHS/DDS

Manor, TX

I oppose this bill. Firearm safety should be recognized and promoted all year long. Discussions of safe and responsible ownership, training, and carry should be promoted year-round so that people don't fear guns but instead value them as a tool and

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

learn to use them with respect and responsibility. This is similar to parents forbidding their children to ever have alcohol. And what happens then? It makes the children only that much more curious to use it irresponsibly. Instead, teaching about responsible use as well as potential dangers drastically decreases the urges for substance abuse. The same goes for gun ownership.

Cal Dean

Self, business owner

Richmond, TX

I oppose this bill because it is using negative terms to discuss a very important subject. Firearms safety should be taught in a neutral manner that focuses on safe gun handling, awareness for children not to handle a found gun but to report it to an adult. Basic firearms safety as per GOA, NRA or any firearms trainer should be taught to every child.

Charles Freeman

self, retired

Overton, TX

“Firearm safety” and “responsible gun ownership” are terms that are being co-opted by those who want to propagate a message that guns are dangerous, serve no valuable purpose, and (if owned at all) should be kept locked up where even the owner doesn’t have access.

If the goal was to encourage Texans to stay safe, legislators should be promoting defensive gun use awareness so Texans understand that firearms ownership and carry can dramatically increase personal safety. You’d encourage community residents and leaders to discuss the need for safe and responsible ownership of, training with, and carry of firearms. You’d honor those who have saved their lives and others’ because they were prepared to be their own first defenders.

Dwight Trautmann

U.S. MARINE

Orange, TX

Please save our bill of rights. Do not infringe.

Bryan Graham

Self

Little Elm, TX

This bill is designed to make guns look like terrible things instead of making awareness and appreciation more important. Guns are a huge part of our history and without them, we wouldn’t be the country we are today. To attempt to make them look bad is against our history and I respectfully request you vote no to this bill. Thank you.

Mandy Kirkland

Self/Pharmacy Tech

Tennessee Colony, TX

I oppose this bill because it does nothing to truly educate and make the public aware of firearms safety. To gun owners, every day is firearms safety day and we always practice firearms safety by treating every gun as if it were loaded, keeping our finger off the trigger until we are ready to fire, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and knowing our target and what is beyond it. We train regularly to remain ready and able to use our weapon if the need arises. Gun safety should educate the public about that training and the need to have a gun readily available should we find ourselves in a harmful situation and need to use it. Drilling it into the public's mind that keeping a gun locked away and unloaded to be safe is not only reckless, but it will cost lives. Every

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

day, hundreds of Texans use their guns to defend themselves and loved ones from those who wish to do them harm. This bill is simply another effort at gun control and teaching that all guns are bad.

suzy Robinson

Self

McGregor, TX

HB 009091 I Strongly Object to this bill as being a "Public Safety Awareness" bill. Obviously this bill is to support gun control. The owners of guns, take far more seriously the responsibility of gun ownership and safety than liberal politicians. This bill speaks loudly of liberal / communistic gun removal than it does of safety.

Lauren Heese

self/Analytical Development Associate

Katy, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. In essence, it is saying that guns are dangerous and serve no valuable purpose. As a responsible gun owner I train regularly and know and understand the current laws. Firearms keep me and my family safe. This bill does NOT ensure that I am protected, it is a blatant attempt to spread a false narrative that guns, if owned at all should be kept locked away from ordinary, law abiding citizens. I encourage you all to OPPOSE this bill to ensure that our second amendment rights are not infringed.

RONALD L LOTT

self -- veterinarian

Nacogdoches, TX

Dear legislators:

I encourage you to oppose HB 909 because of potentially misleading ideology and proven ineffectiveness of such programs. Are guns dangerous? Yes, when used in a dangerous manner. But, so are vehicles, alcohol, social media and electricity. All these products and services, including guns, have very beneficial uses when used within certain guidelines. Use of these products outside those guidelines is destined to lead to danger, severe injury, and or death.

I served as instructor for a youth sport shooting organization for several years. We taught those young people that gun safety was not a month of the year or even one day of the week. Gun safety is a priority every time you are around a firearm. We also taught them that guns do not accidentally kill people. Rather, it is irresponsible use of the gun by irresponsible people that unintentionally injure and kill people. The insinuated message of the bill is that guns are inherently dangerous and that we need to remember this one month per year.

I submit to you that many tools, equipment, devices and other items are much, much more dangerous based on CDC data. One only has to look at annual rates of alcohol related deaths in the US to prove this point. One can also look at the drug and alcohol abuse rates among adults that have all grown up during the "Red Ribbon Week" era and many other anti-drug abuse programs to see that such programs do not work. They just make us "feel good" because we are doing something. Using state funds to promote a Gun Safety month seems like yet another well-meaning, but ineffective and misguided use of tax dollars.

I urge you to oppose HB 909.

Respectfully,
Ronald L Lott

James Newman

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Self

Grapevine, TX

I oppose this bill for several reasons:

- 1) This bill has no mention on who is going to write said safety and awareness information and how that will be determined?
- 2) It also does not mention who is going to pay for it?
- 3) What is the agenda of this bill and why is not laid out in the bill?

The "Firearm Safety Awareness bill when you read between the lines, is just another anti-gun/Bloomberg type of bill. It's another bill that will be one sided with half truths and misleading information to the public.

It also does not tell you where funds for this bill is coming from or better still where is the money being taken from .

As with anything else in life and what you become in life is taught at home, proper gun handling, manners, religion and respect etc. all starts in the home. Before I would even consider a bill like this I would like to know the who, what, when, where and why.

My suggestion for a bill would be to make June "The US & Texas Constitution month", at least everyone one understand what they could lose if they support bill's like this.

Ed Sunderland

Texas voter

Flower Mound, TX

I do not feel this is necessary and presumes we have a problem that requires firearm awareness when everyone I know is a responsible gun owner.

If anything we should get back to firearm training as a high school or middle school elective course.

I received my first firearm when I was 7. Received rudimentary gun training in Cub scouts.

Gerald Migely

self

KERRVILLE, TX

I am writing to oppose HB 909, the bill to establish June as Firearm Safety Awareness Month. I have been a responsible gun owner for over 50 years. I have learned to practice gun safety every month of the year. I regularly discuss responsible gun ownership with members of my family and other gun owners. One thing I have learned during the years I have been a gun owner is that the best gun safety I can practice is to have the gun on my person at all times. I train on a regular basis so that I am ready to protect myself and my family. A study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in 2013 estimates that over 8,000 Americans use a gun to defend themselves every day. So, if the goal of this bill is to encourage Texans to stay safe, Texas legislators should be promoting defensive gun use awareness. That will help Texans understand that firearms ownership and carry can dramatically increase personal safety. This would encourage community leaders and residents to discuss the need for safe and responsible gun ownership, training carrying of firearms. HB 909 does nothing to accomplish this meaningful purpose.

Mary Mims

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I oppose this bill!

Sherry Barnes

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Self. Retired pharmacist

Whitehouse, TX

The bill is counterproductive to the evidence based data. It propagates guns are dangerous and purposeless and should be locked up. The evidence is per CDC 2013 people using guns to protect themselves had consistently lower rates of injury compared to other self protective strategies

Gun owners train regularly and exercise safety measures continually. Legislation should be directed at promoting defensive gun use if the goal is increasing personal safety especially in an environment where scaling back on police funding is on the rise. This bill fails to accomplish the goal

Teri Horne

Self and OCT:WOMEN (Open Carry Texas Women)

Quitman, TX

Thank you committee members. My name is Teri Horne, I'm LTC. I'm a Mom and Grandma, I oppose hb909 in instituting firearms safety awareness month, in giving fuel to the anti gun propaganda, rather than proclaiming such a month, we, You, as Legislators should be pushing Texans in carrying in defense of themselves and their families, in keeping their firearm under control of themselves, in seeking education, in educating our children and youth. Gone are the days firearm education was taught in school, it should be Re- implemented. The funds and time for a firearm safety awareness month could be put to much better use, in hands on teaching and educating, rather than commercials, adds, or billboards that may be used but anti gun propaganda outlets, in which no one would really pay attention to. Thank You, Teri Horne OCT:WOMEN

John Conner

Self

Houston, TX

Honorable Committee:

Gun safety also means that we keep our firearms with us – where we can have access to them. We train regularly. We are ready to protect ourselves. If the goal was to encourage Texans to stay safe, legislators should be promoting defensive gun use

awareness so Texans understand that firearms ownership and carry can dramatically increase personal safety. You'd encourage community residents and leaders to discuss the need for safe and responsible ownership of, training with, and carry of firearms. You'd honor those who have saved their lives and others' because they were prepared to be their own first defenders. This bill does not accomplish that purpose. Please oppose.

John Conner

Mary Mims

Self

Pflugerville, TX

OPPOSE

Matthew Pappas

self

Lewisville, TX

Designating a single month as “firearm awareness” month is disingenuous. Firearm owners practice safety and awareness daily

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

and teach the same to family and friends. They are not punchlines or rhetoric used for political gain. Owners train with their firearms, clean and maintain them. They store them and carry them in preparation for when they might be needed to defend person or property. Any discussion of “safety and awareness” without mention of school and individual training programs to promote the safe and effective use of firearms for sport and personal defense, is counterproductive and works contrary to the message and intent of the Second Amendment of the United States. “Safety” and “awareness” are terms being co-opted by modern anti-gun groups to promote the vilification of firearms and those who would keep and use them for defense or other legal endeavors. Firearms are used in countless defensive encounters annually as the FBI and even CDC numbers indicate. Many of those encounters result in no shots being fired and no injuries. These facts need to be championed and promoted by our government but instead you promote fear of firearms and those who possess them. I am opposed to this bill and any bill which seeks to undermine the Second Amendment by this type of verbal subterfuge. I you want to properly promote firearms safety and awareness, how about passing laws to make it easier for local law enforcement and county Sheriffs to partner with 2A advocacy groups such as the NRA, GOA, and others as well as local gun clubs and shooting ranges to engage with and train the public on these matters. Help promote ownership and responsibility of firearms rather than trying to convince people they are dangerous and unnecessary. This bill is vague and does nothing useful. It needs to be thrown in the trash pile.

Patricia Todd

Self retired

Whitehouse, TX

I am a widow living in government subsidized housing. Personal safety is a high priority. Gun ownership is essential for self protection as I am also in a wheelchair. The bill fails to educate and promote the truth regarding gun ownership. It alludes that guns are dangerous, have no purpose, and should be locked up. Gun owners are far more responsible, trained, and equipped to handle situations than with other forms of self defense. And it holds the perpetrator to an accountability that requires a second analysis. The bill propagates a false narrative

Cynthia Mims

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Oppose

Jewel Johnson, Mrs

Self

Coppell, TX

Please Oppose HB 909

I oppose this bill which insinuates that a personal fire arm is of no value. It is unconstitutional for you to say that I have no right to protect myself or my family.

Cindy Vogel

Self / IT

Plano, TX

Oppose. Vote No

Michelle Garcia

Self ; IT management consulting program manager

Carrollton, TX

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

I oppose a firearms safety awareness month that will be used to present guns in a negative light and as dangerous, thereby instilling fear vs truly educating the public on safety

Donald Still, Retired. USN

Self, Retired Navy

Longview, TX

Firearms Safety Awareness is a lofty goal! But I oppose this Bill909 because the message has been hijacked by the liberal wordsmiths to present to the public that all firearms are dangerous and have no merit to exist to the tune of \$1,000,000 tax \$ last year. The US CDC has presented evidence that defensive gun ownership is measurably beneficial to the public. Firearms are not bad.

Mike Clancy

self

FRISCO, TX

I believe the hidden agenda of HB 909 is an additional hinderance to gun ownership and use. Please oppose HB 909.

Jane Huber

self

Bulverde, TX

OPPOSE: HB 909 by Rep. Gervin-Hawkins

I believe legal gun owners know the risks and safety of owning a gun. As in the US constitution, government "shall not infringe"

Zachary Martin

Representing the Martin family

Houston, TX

To make June a fire arm safety awareness month is a waste of taxpayer money and a waste of judicial time when there are so many other more pressing matters at hand

Scott Spreier

Texas Gun Owners for Safety

Dallas, TX

March 15, 2021

Texas Gun Owners for Safety Steering Committee Members

giffords.org/txgunowners

RE HB 909 - Designating June as Firearm Safety Awareness Month

As Texas gun owners and Steering Committee members of Texas Gun Owners for Safety, we fully support action to prevent gun violence and save lives—including designating June as Firearm Safety Awareness Month.

To that end, we strongly encourage the discussion of “the safe and responsible ownership, storage, and use of firearms” as written in Representative Gervin-Hawkins’ bill, HB 909.

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

The statistics alone make a strong case for such legislation:

- In the United States, guns are the second leading cause of death of those under 18.

- In Texas, unintentional shootings continue to be a troubling issue, with 85 deaths and 171 injuries in 2020, and 14 deaths and 24 injuries thus far in 2021, according to The Gun Violence Archive [<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/query/2f39b65e-f359-4614-bb34-1576259fed80/map>]. The stories are tragic: an aunt who, while babysitting, posed with what she thought was an unloaded gun and shot a 10-year-old; a 12-year-old who shot his 10-year-old friend, while playing with a loaded rifle; a 3-year-old who died after picking up a gun that fell from a family member's pocket.

Given such tragedies, the promotion of safe storage, such as that called for in Governor Greg Abbott's 2018 School Safety Action Plan [https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/School_Safety_Action_Plan_05302018.pdf], developed after the Santa Fe shooting, should be an important component in any Firearm Safety Awareness Month programming.

As responsible Texas gun owners, we believe safety is the first tenet of gun ownership. We strongly support HB 909 designating June as Firearm Safety Awareness month.

TGOS Steering Committee Members

Kevin Cruser - Austin, TX
David Dunn - Austin, TX
Alan Krov - Wimberley, TX
Pat Krov - Wimberley, TX
Laurie Morrison - Spring, TX
Jane Mumey - Houston, TX
Josh Sanderson - Cedar Park, TX
Scott Spreier - Dallas, TX

Doug Wyman, Mr.

Self. Machinist.

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose this bill completely. You're making a mockery out of us that treat every month as gun safety month. I have been carrying daily for years and have never once had an accident. This bill makes it seem like guns are dangerous at all times and they are not. Please put this bill where it belongs, in the trash.

Michelle Mostert

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I oppose this bill. This implies that firearms are not safe. Remember, guns do not harm people, people harm people. Cars do not harm anyone, those operating the vehicle do. Mobile phones do not harm anyone except when people are using them while operating a motor vehicle. Knives are not dangerous, but many are harmed by them. Why are you singling out firearms? If someone wants to harm you they will with or without a firearm, and safety rarely has anything to do with it. This is an unnecessary bill and I can think of many more important issues that need to be addressed. This is a waste of time and tax payers' money. Thank you.

Diana Chambless

self

Bullard, TX

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Vote Against HB 909! Naming this bill "Firearm Safety Awareness" month implies it is a good thing. Key word: IMPLIES. Merely giving a bill a palatable name does not fool anyone anymore.

There is nothing in this bill that confirms that the messages relayed will actually be about Safety. Therefore, the messages can just as likely to be messages AGAINST gun rights.

The last thing Texans want is a month long left-leaning advertising campaign that is Against owning guns. We can no longer trust the legislature to truly convey gun safety messages. This is because so many of them are dedicated to infringing on our 2nd Amendment rights. Gun Owners understand gun safety, we teach our children gun safety, we take courses about it. We cherish our 2nd Amendment rights and do not want to spend a dime on the advertising that guns are a bad thing or are not safe. This bill will allow that to happen. So, No.

Mark Herrera, Mr

Self

Carrollton, TX

Stop with this overreach of our Constitutionally protected freedoms! Instead of continually pushing forward the "gun-grabbing" agenda, place some effort on actually making DA's in all Texas counties prosecute their criminals like they're supposed to be doing.

Tommy Favor, Mr

Self

Mansfield, TX

Against hb909

Jonathan Findley

Self, Software engineer

Pasadena, TX

I oppose HB-909. There is no practical purpose for establishing a "Firearm Safety Awareness Month", and, as written, this amendment will not achieve its intended purpose. The best course of action would be to encourage schools to re-incorporate firearm instruction in-line with Project Appleseed (<https://www.luckygunner.com/lounge/what-is-project-appleseed/>) or the Civilian Marksmanship Program (<https://thecmp.org/>). This is Texas. Firearms and marksmanship are a foundational tenet of our State, its history, and a huge majority of its inhabitants. We do not need a Firearms Safety Awareness month. We need more opportunities to educate children and adults alike, of all backgrounds, on the proper fundamentals of firearm proficiency.

I propose, therefore, that the committee consider the following:

- 1.) Public land in Texas should not prohibit recreational shooting
- 2.) Competitive marksmanship programs in elementary, middle, and high-schools should be commonplace
- 3.) Vote NO on this proposed amendment.

Colt Szczygiel

Self

Floresville, TX

I believe this is a waste of money & will be used as an anti-gun propoganda tool even if it's not the intent. Firearm safety books in regards to storage & child safety are given out with every gun purchased. The current LTC training covers this as well. The people who are leaving guns around unsafely are not going to be changed by this type of campaign. I've found no evidence of any campaign like this making any difference is gun safety.

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

Patrick Wamhoff
Self-Gun Owner/GOA
Frisco, TX

This bill does nothing to promote life or liberty. I am against bills that waste our legislators time. This is a waste.

Timothy Edmondson
Self/ Independent Contractor
Fort Worth, TX

I am a U.S. Army veteran, and an owner of firearms. I believe whole heartedly in gun safety, and took it upon myself to learn as much about firearms as necessary to be safe with them as should all responsible gun owners. I joined the army and became proficient with my firearms.

However, why should I trust that the government, with this current administration, will not take advantage of this bill "HB 909" to publicly cast negative aspersions against the constitutional rights of the people. We should not allow another opportunity for the far left to hijack a bill, possibly made with good intention, to use it for an anti-American narrative.

"AN ACT
relating to designating June as Firearm Safety Awareness Month.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
SECTION 1. AASubchapter D, Chapter 662, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 662.114 to read as follows:
Sec. 662.114. AAFIREARM SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH. (a) June is Firearm Safety Awareness Month to increase awareness of firearm safety and encourage community residents and leaders to discuss the safe and responsible ownership, storage, and use of firearms and to promote voluntary and collaborative methods that improve public safety.
(b) AAFirearm Safety Awareness Month may be regularly observed through appropriate activities in communities to increase awareness of and education on the responsible use of firearms.
SECTION 2. AAThis Act takes effect September 1, 2021."

HB 909 is a dangerous bill that, seemingly for gun safety, is actually worded in a way that creates an open opportunity to enable anti-gun/anti-constitutional politicians, media outlets, and people who just don't know about firearms to spread propagated disinformation and fear to the public for a narrative that they write against the people's right to keep and bear arms. Having "safety awareness" can bring a negative attention to firearms as if ownership there of, is a "bad" thing. Firearms are not the source of danger, it is the people with bad intentions that are dangerous.

I believe HB 909 is not constructed specifically enough to protect gun owners from anti-gun organizations that would exploit this bill to promote negative views on firearms ownership. I do not support this bill as it is written.

Gunter Barber
Self, attorney
Bryan, TX

"Gun Safety" has turned into a buzz word for gun control advocates. The term appears often in sentences that start with "I support the second amendment, but" as a preface to advocating some absurd restriction.

A formal month given to such an enterprise would harrass the public with messages to worded in ways that suggest "guns are dangerous, better keep them locked up." or other anti gun undertones. Statements that, on their face are innocuous, but are

Printed on: March 16, 2021 8:48 AM

intended to scare people into rejecting their constitutional right and engendering suspicion against those who do.

The state should not be giving a platform to causes that seek to destroy constitutional rights. It should no more fund a "Firearms Safety Awareness Month" as it should a "Women's Proper Voting Awareness Month."

Eric Schafer

Self - Educator

Hewitt, TX

Setting up an official month for anything including firearm safety awareness is not a useful function of gov't. Please do not entertain this bill and waste the people's time. There are real issues to address.

Manuel Gonzales

self

Austin, TX

Government should not be in the business of creating propaganda to demonize utilization of one's rights. Next thing we know, we will have a "voters safety month", to "properly educate" the populace.