

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 957

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

Alan Little

Self

Plano, TX

Suppressors are not the "silencers", as portrayed in the movies.

Suppressors only reduce the sound level about 20-30 decibels.

A suppressor will reduce the sound level of the average firearm from about 157-167 db to about 120-130 decibels, which is just barely enough to reduce the sound level below the 130 db pain level (per (OSHA).

The sound level for a firearm with a suppressor is still loud.

For comparison, 130 decibels is equivalent to a military jet aircraft take-off from aircraft carrier with afterburner at 50 ft., 120 decibels is equivalent to a thunderclap or a chain saw, and the music at a live rock concert is about 108 - 114 dB.

Suppressors only reduce the sound level. With additional hearing protection, such as ear muffs that provide a reduction of 20-30 decibels, the sound level for the person shooting a suppressed firearm is about 100 db.

Anyone who believes suppressors are the "silencers" noted in the movies, have been severely misinformed.

Suppressors are not silencers, they just reduce the sound level to a safer and more manageable level.

There is no reason that the ownership or even the manufacture of suppressors should be restricted.

Jon Pinkston

1836 Trading Co

Montgomery, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Vehicle & firearm mufflers were designed/patented by the same man; Maxim. Why is 1 regulated mandatory & the other regulated to keep them out of citizen's hands?

- Sales tax on these is more than enough tax paid. The tax stamp is double taxation.

- Taxation is theft. If the Federal government could reign in their spending & abolish the unconstitutional BATFE then they would have no reason for the \$200 tax stamp.

- Silencers/suppressors merely muffle the report; they do not make firearms silent. They're hearing protection that's attached to the firearm instead of your ears, but shots are still heard.

- Multiple foreign countries require them & consider it rude to shoot without a suppressor; why has the US given in to Hollywood myth?

Jared Hatch

Self/ pest control technician

Van Alstyne, TX

I am a regular guy who supports all gun rights because gun rights are everyones rights. The government doesnt need to know or much less regulate how Americans choose to defend themselves in any way. In my opinion the unlawful unconstitutional and evil organization that is known as the ATF should be dissolved. Nobody should have to die or face jail time because they own simple devices.

MIKE PENA

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Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I support this bill! Suppressors protect hearing for myself and others around me. Very useful on a indoor range.

Gerald Dietz, Mr.

Ziva Enterprises

Taylor, TX

Hello,

I appreciate the opportunity to make comments regarding HB 957 relating to firearm suppressors.

As we all know they do not aid criminals in the commission of crimes. Suppressors increase the length and weight of a firearm there by decreasing the ability to conceal the firearm. Also, criminals, by definition, also don't follow the law, so will do what is necessary to acquire a suppressor should he/she want one. Therefor the law only affects law-abiding citizens.

The benefits to shooting suppressed are numerous as a suppressor reduces the occurrence of hearing reduction and tinnitus. The reduction reduces fatigue which improves performance and thereby increases safety. Reduced noise improves communication and awareness on the range as well offering even more safety and awareness. When hunting the benefits are the same for firing on the range. Hunters are less susceptible to hearing damage and are more safe due to an increase in awareness as the need hearing protection is either reduced or negated totally.

Thank you for taking the time to look over my thoughts.

Gerald Dietz

Jay Lopez

self business owner

Dallas, TX

I support this bill.

- 1) I want to ensure the safety of Texas citizens to manufacture their own suppressors
- 2) I want to create jobs for Texans
- 3) I want to ensure Texans can protect their ear hearing

Larry Rhea, Mr.

Self

Amarillo, TX

I support HB957 for the following reasons:

1. It would reduce the wait time to take possession of the suppressor. Federal approval can take a year of longer.
2. It would help reduce hearing loss.
3. Suppressors are not used to commit crimes. Why limit their access.

John Chamberlain

Self

ODESSA, TX

I support HB 957! I own 2 suppressors which cost me \$400 for just the Tax stamps and 11 months of wait time after I bought

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them to pose legally. Suppressors should be deregulated from the NFA! In other countries you can buy a suppressor and take it home the same day. Its considered polite to use a suppressor to keep noise levels down in those countries. There is no such thing as a Hollywood quiet suppressors! Its still loud. Am a veteran with hearing loss and my suppressors help me from losing more of my hearing.

Justin DeLaGarza

Gun Owners Of America

Plano, TX

I support House Bill 957 by Oliverson because:

1. It is Clearly stated in the Texas Constitutional Bill of Rights and in the u.s Bill of Rights that [The Right to KEEP and BEAR ARMS Shall Not be INFRINGED]. Therefore it is a (Right) and also the (LAW). Also Therefore any item or device that is that is used or apart of or for a FireArm -along with the FireArm itself is essentially a (Functional Mechanism, ie: Suppressors) OF the FireArm itself such as Ex: the Trigger, The barrel, and even the upper and lower frames whether Rifle or Pistol ect... Meaning all things associated with Arms whether attached or unattached are all part of [The Right to Keep and Bear Arms] and [The Right to Keep and Bear Arms] means ALL THINGS, Bearing all or any arms or anything of any type of Arms (It is Universal).

2. The Right to Keep and Bear Arms is a Natural Right which all Free Men have Freely and is recognized in the 2nd Ammdement of the Bill of Rights as LAW being of the Law.

The 2nd Ammdement as part of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of Texas therefore is not only a recognized Right under LAW but it is in fact the LAW OF THE LAND itself and is of the LAW.

In short in the Republic of Texas the Natural Rights of Man and its Civilized Moral constructs with the Inherent Right to Self government being the first Principles of Liberty Being ordained by the Lord God himself is, has been and always will be the Law so in Logical conclusion we can confirm that in Texas LIBERTY IS THE LAW!

3. SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED!!!

Mohammed AlJuhani

Self, R&D Technician I + UPS package handler

Manor, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- 1.I desire a suppressor because I value my hearing. Therefore, more hearing protection is a plus.
2. A step closer to "Shall not be infringed" We must get rid of all these ignorant and deceptive laws, that have one logical explanation "Tyranny & oppression".
2. More "Made in Texas" merchandise please.

Kelly Jones

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support this bill because suppressors should be thought of as hearing protection which shouldn't require a tax stamp from the federal government. This legislation would generate new business in Texas. This bill would generate substantial tax revenue for the state of Texas as a lot of Texans would be purchasing suppressors that otherwise couldn't afford one.

Robert Frischer, Dr.

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self, retired

Wichita Falls, TX

As a senior with age related hearing loss how wonderful it would be to be able to own a suppressor to help preserve what's left of my hearing. Even England with their strict gun control laws allows suppressors. Please support this

Harold Waters

self

Houston, TX

Please support this bill. Suppressors help prevent hearing damage when using firearms. There is no evidence that suppressors should have ever been restricted from general use. Some foreign countries with strict gun laws allow suppressor sales over the counter with no restrictions. Hunters in some of these countries are expected to use suppressors as a courtesy to those who might be disturbed by the sound of non suppressed guns. Texans would be best served by this bill.

Phillip Lee

Self/Telecom

Highland Village, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors make shooting safer by mitigating hearing loss. They are also civilized in being considerate of neighbors, friends, etc. by reducing the loud report of supersonic shooting. They are advantageous for new shooters by reducing the noise of gunfire. It seems silly that in other countries (Europe, New Zealand, Australia, etc.), you can purchase suppressors over the counter & it is not only expected, but enforced, that they be used for hunting & shooting. If we have to have mufflers on our vehicles, then why can't we have mufflers for our firearms?

Geri Sudman

self

Melissa, TX

I support this bill. It would be nice to not need ear protection while hunting or practicing at a private location. It's also nice for the neighboring properties at outdoor ranges. Let's get this passed and take care of Texans.

Also, STOP Joe Biden's unconstitutional executive orders and crazy expensive bills.

Miles Perron

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a ranch owner with a feral hog problem. I need to use a suppressor to control that problem at night and do not want to alarm my neighbors or damage hearing. A suppressor is the answer but it is none of the government's business whether I own one or not. None. Period. End of sentence.

Michael Hill

Self

Caldwell, TX

It is my right by the Constitution.
It will give me an advantage while hunting.

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Noise reduction as a health issue related to hearing loss.

Michael Mikesh

Self / Director of Operations for a CCF

Gonzales, TX

I support this bill

Danny Mitchell

Self

Leonard, TX

I support this bill HB 957. Countries around the world with tighter gun restrictions than the United States allow their citizens to purchase and own firearm suppressors without permission from the government. A suppressor reduces the muzzle blast to a safer level it does not silence the muzzle blast. I believe it's time for our state legislature to support this bill. A tax stamp is infringement on all gun owning Texan's.

Charles Milliken IV, Mr.

Self / Web Developer

Fairview, TX

I'd like to express my support for HB 957, allowing Texans to purchase and own Texas made firearm suppressors. First and foremost, these devices are arms, by definition. There should be no law prohibiting or limiting the ownership and carrying of any arm, as the right to do so is protected by both the U.S. and Texas constitutions. Secondly, intrastate commerce is not subject to Federal regulation or taxation. If it's made in Texas, sold in Texas, purchased in Texas by a Texan, and used in the State of Texas, the Federal Government should not be involved. Finally, despite what TV and Movies might have people believe, suppressors do not make firearms silent. Not even close. They do, however greatly reduce the probability of hearing damage when discharging a firearm. This fact alone should justify their use as not only arms, but safety equipment. As vital to firearms safety as ear protection. So please, pass HB 957, and give Texans back the right to protect their hearing, as well as themselves.

Benji Campbell

Self

Anson, TX

I support this bill. A suppressor is a safety tool it. It is not a "silencer". Suppressors only brings down the hazardous decibel level to the CDC recommended level. It would be safer for hunters as we would be able to hear our surroundings before we take a shot. Lastly, suppressors don't lend themselves to Criminal activity as they make guns hate to conceal not easier. In closing, please pass HB 957 for the safety of our communities.

Richard Husek

Self

Carrollton, TX

I am in support of HB 957 to allow ownership of Texas-made suppressors. The Federal Government is increasingly limiting access to or classifying items as firearms when in fact they are not a firearm. Suppressors are one of those items. Only law-abiding citizens get the Tax Stamp for suppressors and the cost and process is onerous. The Tax Stamp does not prevent criminals from obtaining them. It would be nice to not have to wear two types of hearing protection when at the range. It is also helpful for noise abatement where ranges are inside a building or close to other land uses.

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Robert Coleman

Self

Ft Worth, TX

The record shows that silencers are seldom if ever used in crime nor do they contribute in any way. Hunters and target shooters benefit greatly. Silencers won't completely quiet the sound but lower it to safer levels. Game does not spook and flee and people inside homes are not disturbed. In home protection scenarios the gunshot sound is deafening and possibly incapacitating for a woman. It surely will impair one's ability to hear and locate more intruders.

Many more shooters would take advantage of shooting suppressed were it affordable. The additional \$200 for a federal stamp puts the price of owning a suppressor out of reach for many. The 8 to 12 month waiting period discourages most.

Since I was 7 years old I have hunted. I served in the Army. If I had access to suppressors quite possibly wouldn't need hearing aids today.

Sincerely RM Coleman 111

Margaret's Cunningham, Ms

Self

Whitehouse, TX

I support the ban on owning suppressors on guns in Texas. These suppressors do not silence guns as many people mistakenly believe, but merely lower the sound to a decibel level which does not cause hearing damage. It also increases safety, by allowing the suppressors, because, currently, in order to protect their hearing, many who shoot shotguns wear muffs to protect their hearing, which precludes them from hearing what is going on around them. The CDC approves of suppressors, also, to protect from hearing loss. Let's allow Texans to use suppressors "Made in Texas" which will stay in Texas to be used in Texas for the sake of Texans. Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Mallory

Raba Kistner, Inc.

Manor, TX

I support this bill. Mainly for these three reasons:

1. A suppressor brings a firearm sound just under the hazard limit, reducing the risk of permanent hearing damage.
2. The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health.
3. It's more dangerous NOT to use a suppressor than to use one.

Paul Rupe

Self, software developer

Liberty Hill, TX

I support HB 957. Suppressors are safety tools, reducing both noise and recoil. They do not turn gun owners into silent assassins as portrayed in Hollywood movies. In fact they make guns heavier and harder to conceal. Texas should lead the way in ending this nonsensical ban.

Dorian Torres

The people

PORTLAND, TX

I as a Texan support this bill. I speak for millions of Texans, we don't need infringements on our rights. Yeah it's our right to own a suppressor, why are they even regulated, I mean it's just a piece of metal? Because the government doesn't want you to own one

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for many reasons. We the people are tired of regulations, we are supposed to be free yet we pay for water, food, housing, etc. We see this, the people are watching. Do the right thing folks, the pass this bill....let's get texas back to it's roots....for what texas is known for around the country. Beautiful women, bigger everything and a whole Lotta guns/freedom!!!!

Kenneth Collins

Citizen

Mt Pleasant, TX

1. Fights noise pollution.
2. No downside for public
3. \$200.00 "Tax" is unjust.

Gabriel Gaitan, Mr.

Self, SHSU graduate student.

Huntsville, TX

Good morning Representative Oliverson,

I am Gabriel Gaitan, I am a graduate student at Sam Houston State University specializing in Homeland Security Studies. I speaking in support of HB 957, my reasons for this are that Texans should not bear the blunt of the NFA as well as suppressors who are made in Texas and who do not have a Federal tax stamp, can be allowed to be purchased by law abiding and honest Texas gun owners to manufacture, sell, and own a "Made in Texas" suppressor that is not subject to federal regulations. Finally, law abiding and peaceful elderly people who owned guns are sensitive to loud noises due to lack of vulnerabilities. So suppressors can be a big help in locking out loud sounds. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Gaitan

Allen Hulstine

Self

Denison, TX

I absolutely support this bill ... a suppressor only makes a firearm hearing safe to operate with out using hearing protection and makes it much more pleasurable to operate and train with a firearm, plus you don't drive the neighborhood crazy with noise ... i wished all my gun loving Neighbor's had one and this bill will do just that ... in NO way does a suppressor make a firearm more deadly nor more accurate ... it just makes it less painful to be around... the federal government forces us to have a muffler on our vehicles and rightfully so ... it's down right silly to pay them extra taxes and form a trust .. then beg for permission to put a muffler on our firearms. Just my perspective on this matter , thank you for listening !!!

Kevin Jimmerson

Self

North Zulch, TX

I support this bill. There is no reason for suppressors to be regulated at the federal level. They are not firearms. As a firearm instructor I can tell you that they do not make weapons more dangerous, or easier to conceal, or lighter in any way. If fact they are just the opposite.

Hearing protection from the very loud muzzle blast of modern rifles is a danger to all. It also makes it harder for youth and adults who don't like the noise to shoot accurately in hunting situations.

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In Europe, where they have very strict gun control laws, suppressors can be purchased over the counter for as little as \$50. No registration and no restrictions. In fact, they are mandatory to use in many areas to prevent noise pollution. Please pass this Bill.

John McFarlen

Self, retired

Abilene, TX

I support this bill.

1. Suppressors do not "silence" the report from a firearm.
2. Suppressors do greatly reduce the hearing damaging concussion created by a firearm discharge and in so doing protects the shooter and bystanders from harm.
3. It is my opinion that the utility for a suppressor in the commission of a crime is a fiction created by the movie industry and other propaganda sources.

Though I doubt anyone can prove otherwise, the following is my understand.

Oliverson, I suggest you include a a preamble to your bill. Issue a declaration of status to remove any doubt surrounding the true relationship of men and women to government. In simple terms, the great I am created man and gave man rights. Man created government to protect man's rights from men and women of dishonorable character i.e. the tyrants. There is no crime without a victim.

Suppressors fall into the victimless crime category. No one is HARMED by using a suppressor, the opposite is true. Hearing is protected by the use of a suppressor. Both the man or woman discharging a firearm and bystanders benefit from the employment of a suppressor. A suppressor simply reduces the concussion force of a discharge, protecting everyone in the immediate vicinity from hearing damage. "Silencing" is not a function of a suppressor.

If suppressors are such a problem, why do they cease being a problem when a fee is paid for permission to possess and use the very same device? Tell me, exactly how did I, a man, become subject to the whims of who ever it is that hands out permission to do things that cause no harm to anyone? In this country, a man or woman can be put in prison for the rest of their natural lives without causing harm to anyone and you say we have freedom. Committing a man or woman to prison without probable cause is presuming an ownership interest in property. Men and women are not property. Find a way to live your life without causing harm to anyone else. No victim, no crime. Probable cause requires a victim.

Grayson Horne

Self- Student and construction worker

Plano, TX

This bill, just like HB 1911 and SB 513, is by far one of the most important bills ever presented before our great state in all of Texas' history. Our second amendment rights have been under attack for quite a while now, but it's gotten worse than ever before with calls for infringement upon infringement, from so many people from our new president and his cabinet, the VP, and even some of our own people who have forgotten what it means to uphold the constitution, such as Sheila Jackson Lee and apparently even our own Lt Gov Patrick. We are constantly asked for "compromise" when it comes to guns and we generally accept it, however the old saying, "if you give them an inch, they'll take a mile", is all too true here. The truth is it's just a slow erosion of our second amendment, slowly stripping away one right at a time, until there is eventually nothing left. And most of these laws that ban/regulate firearms are based on nothing more than popularity and aesthetics. Suppressors are regulated based on the way they appear to function in a lot of movies, but not how they actually work. Biden wants to ban pistol braces and 80% receivers now, which are products that literally only exist as products of regulation. Pistol braces wouldn't be a thing if you could legally put a stock on a gun without having to register it as a short barreled rifle. People wouldn't bother buying 80% frames if they could just get 100% finished ones for the same price, but instead they go for the 80% ones because they don't have to pay an FFL transfer fee and all the other taxes associated with something that is already considered a firearm, as well as get and wait on a NICS check, and not be able to ship to your home, whereas an 80% frame doesn't have any of these issues and it needs to be modified to function. The NFA is by far one of the largest infringements upon our 2A rights that has ever been passed in our

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history, aside from maybe the AWB in the 90s that made crime rates skyrocket. The fact is suppressors are a safety device more than anything else. You shouldn't need a tax stamp and almost a year of government approval just to reduce your gun's noise by 15-30%. They can't be used to massacre a group of people in broad daylight without anyone hearing a peep, as many movies would lead you to believe. In fact, even with a suppressor, most firearms are still loud enough that a discharge within city limits will still most likely prompt someone to call police, it's not something insanely stealthy that only assassins use. It's to protect your ears when you go shoot, plain and simple. It is absolutely asinine to regulate things like these, or SBRs and SBSs the way we currently do, as there is no logic behind it. In a state that prides itself on its freedom and liberty, we need to be the ones to set an example by repairing the damage we've already done to the second amendment, not the ones that just follow along with the rest of the country and give up our freedoms. Thank you

Maritza Muguira

self

HELOTES, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors protect from permanent hearing damage; they do NOT silence guns. Criminals are not enticed to use suppressors because they also make guns heavier and less concealable. Please repeal Texas criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations.

Marco Aleman

Self - entrepreneur

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

It is imperative that in the horrific event that I ever have to defend my home and my family with a firearm, that I maintain the ability to communicate with my family during and after the event, AND be able to HEAR, communicate, and comply with law enforcement after said event, for my own safety, AND for the safety of the law enforcement officers.

Federal wait times are arduous, arbitrary, and draconian.

I've been waiting 8+ months since I finished jumping through all required hoops, and I'm still "waiting", as if that's an acceptable way for anyone to exercise their Natural Rights.

If you can legally buy a gun, you should be able to legally buy a suppressor, and actually take possession of it at point of purchase - NOT wait for a permission slip from a federal government that is growing increasingly corrupt at worst, and incompetent at best.

I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your service.

Doug Kirk

Self

McKinney, TX

I support this bill. Hearing protection should not be subject to a \$200 federal fee. We should be able to own suppressors made in Texas, for Texans without federal interference.

Nathan Petty

Self - real estate

Dallas, TX

Suppressors have been wrongly restricted for too long. They make shooting even more safe by reducing the sound to a level that does not require bulky ear protection, which makes practice shooting more enjoyable. They also reduce recoil, allowing for more practice time at the range. More practice time and familiarity with firearms also leads to gun handlers who are more safe. And for those unfamiliar with guns and suppressors, no, guns are not rendered whisper-quiet like one sees in some Hollywood

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fantasy. The sound is will still be in the 130-140 decibel range, which is louder than any concert. Passage of this bill will also remove the already heavy handed Federal government from a state-level issue. I'm happy to see this bill being considered and hope for it's passage.

Tracy Phillips

Self - self employed, online services

Gatesville, TX

I support this bill 100%. We need to get the federal government out of our backyard. Texans are responsible gun owners and shouldn't have to ask the Feds for permission to own a suppressor. I prefer using one on my rifles, as I am sensitive to loud noises and have problems wearing noise cancelling headphones and earplugs. I moved to Texas to have more freedoms under the 2nd amendment as well as other freedoms. I was surprised to see that Texas wasn't leading the way in 2nd amendment freedom. Are the slogans "Come and Take It" and "Don't Mess With Texas" merely bumper stickers to the bureaucrats running this state or do they actually mean something to them?

Josh Hamilton

self

aransas pass, TX

I support this bill, because it will protect and reinforce our ability to exercise our second amendment right. The "NFA" or National Firearms Act is one of the most unconstitutional pieces of legislation ever passed in our country. Not only does it tax a right but the rules are outdated and don't apply in the year 2021. Texas should explore passing any legislation that makes any federal firearms laws null and void and to allow us to exercise our rights.

Respectfully,

Josh Hamilton

Hunter Beck

Self

Austin, TX

Suppressors don't make guns "Hollywood quiet", they just protect hearing and reduce the impact you have on the environment around you while enjoying your freedoms. Cars are legally required to have mufflers, yet firearm mufflers are illegal without paying the federal government for permission?

Dan McLennan

Self/Project Manager

Corpus Christi, TX

I Support this Bill.

The use of suppressors for hunting, plinking and and target shooting would reduce hearing damage for the shooter and anyone nearby and also reduce noise pollution for any neighboring residential areas.
Shooting suppressed would help beginning shooters by eliminating some of the report.

Jeffrey Rance

Self

Dallas, TX

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I support this bill. For too many years our hearing has been damaged by a foolish Tax and registration of these items. Politicians have wrongheadedly assumed that suppressors will make a gunfire signature undetectable. This is a product of Hollywood and plain silly. Much like the automatic knife these items have been maligned for no reason other than political hype. Please free Texans to enjoy the shooting sports without the interference of Washington, D.C. Washington has proved itself incapable of doing what is best for the American people.

Bradley Hodges

self

austin, TX

FOR HB 957.

This bill is long over due, it is a good start, but does not go anywhere near far enough: we need state pre-emption on suppressors to block democrat cities from further infringing on individual liberties; the state should promote Made In Texas, encourage and foster in-state production by blocking federal taxation, VAT, and the Pittman Robertson tax for local production firearms accessories and ammunition Made In Texas, By Texans, For Texans.

Ian Kress

Myself. Engineer.

Nassau Bay, TX

I support HB 957. Suppressors are mufflers for firearms, that reduce the noise level from horrible, to merely very loud, as you still need to wear ear protection while using them. The "psst" sound in movies, barely above a whisper, is about as accurate as the movie 6-shooter that must hold 25 rounds as it never runs out of ammo.

They make shooting much more enjoyable, reduce the risk of hearing damage, and reduce noise issues with people living close to shooting ranges.

If firearm laws were logical, there would be no more restrictions on suppressor ownership than with a rifle scope. But suppressors were restricted at a Federal level with the 1934 National Firearms Act. However, for a suppressor is made in Texas, and does not leave the state, it should not be subject to Federal regulation - depending on how expansive the Judicial system decides the Commerce Clause (CC) of the Constitution is. In the past the CC has been used to allow the Federal Government to more or less do anything - even the non-growing of wheat was deemed by the courts as subject to the CC in a famous case.

However, the courts have begun to reexamine the breath and scope of the CC, and limit its former never-ending power. This bill would further both gun rights, and serve a good test case for what boundaries the courts are willing to put on the CC, and once again allow for the concept of Federalism, along with recognizing the limits on the Federal Government via the 10th Amendment.

Michael Durden

Self

Arlington, TX

I fully support this bill. There is no good reason a suppressor should be on the NFA in the first place. They are NEVER used in crimes... which FBI statistics support, and its not because of the NFA.

Suppressors can easily be made in the garage for less than \$50, so if a criminal wanted one they would have them.

Suppressors DO save hearing for those of us who legally shoot. Reducing noise levels to sub-hearing damage levels is a VERY good thing, and we should support that action every chance we get.

Please move this bill to the Governor's desk as soon as possible.

Hayden Preston

Self

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Ben Wheeler, TX

I Support this bill, I own a suppressor and I think everyone should own them for the sake of protecting their hearing. Hearing damage is irreversible and slowly happens before you realize it and suppressors give you just enough protection to keep you from damaging your ears but are far from silent. Also if you can buy a gun and be trusted with it And pass a background check what good reason is there to limit the ability to put a muffler on the end of it.

Daniel Blahuta, Mr

Self, Retired

Whitesboro, TX

I support HB 957. We should not have to pay for the right to own something that can protect our hearing. We should also be able to own and manufacture our own products without the federal government infringing on our right to do so.

Kim Morgan

Self

Point, TX

I support this bill, for the hearing health of hunters, to reduce noise while practicing, and to allow hog hunters to eliminate more hogs at one hunt

Kirk McKnight

Gun Owners of America

Levelland, TX

As a US ARMY Vet. From the Vietnam war and a infantry soldier with extensive hunting experience. I know my hearing has suffered in those times. But it would be nice to do anything to lessen the sound of my weapons to assure I don't need hearing aids in the future. This would be a great tool in our bag to be both more considerate hunters as well as those who hunt or shoot with us. I strongly Support this Bill for myself and my fellow Texans. Please do your part to see that this Bill passes for one and all.
Thanks

Kirk McKnight Retired Oilfield Welder, Army Grunt, and Nurse.

Evan Watkins

self, home maker, retired

New Braunfels, TX

My family and I SUPPORT this bill. Having additional legislation on top of unnecessary Federal legislation is a waste of resources and complicates state law. The 2nd Amendment protects American's rights to bear arms and accessories to arms (ie firearms) should NOT fall under any law/legislation. When I was younger I thought they would be silent, but the movies exaggerate suppressor capabilities. Suppressors make shooting more quiet just as a muffler makes a car more quiet. Suppressors are not an evil tool that makes guns silent; however, they do make them less noisy and more "polite" to shoot.

Stephen Kille, Rev.

self, minister

Grand Prairie, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors are a safety tool and help prevent hearing loss. Current laws put a heavy burden on citizens, with waiting periods of a year or more. For this reason, I do not own one, and I would like to be able to own one under the terms of

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this bill.

Martin Pazdera

US Navy Ret.

Fort Worth, TX

Please support the Second Admendant and this bill to make it legal for Texans to own Texan made products.

As a suppressor owner, I can tell you first hand how the Federal government has infringed on my rights as an American Citizen. First they charge a \$200.00 tax on the privilege to own it. Then they put your private information into a data base that should not exist.

It states in the Second Admendant that the right of the people shall not be infringed upon.

Please support this bill to give Texans the right to own what they can produce.

Third, the use of silencers greatly help reduce personnel hearing loss. So this should be looked as a safety item also.

Respectfully,

Martin Pazdera

Von Long, Mr.

self

KATY, TX

I am writing in support of H.B. 957. This bill repeals the Texas ban on owning firearms suppressors without a federal tax stamp. A suppressor does not silence a firearm rather it brings the sound just under the hazard limit. As a senior citizen, a suppressor would allow me to handle a firearm more safely and reduce the risk of further hearing loss. Use of a suppressor should not lead to criminal activity as it makes the firearm longer, heavier and less easy to conceal. Therefore, I urge the committee to support this bill.

Daniel White

Self

Round Rock, TX

Please pass this bill to support our right to keep and bear arms, and protect our state's citizens from unlawful federal government encroachment.

Harry Josten

self

Grapevine, TX

Suppressors protect the hearing of the shooter as well as others in proximity to the discharged firearm. There is nothing unsafe about a suppressor. Not using a suppressor is damaging to hearing.

Patrick Shaffer

Self

Midland, TX

I support this bill without major changes to the current written text. The reason is that Texas should become a 2nd amendment state, and firearm suppressors and federal bureaucratic regulations should not have effect in our state on this topic. Hearing protection while engaging in firearm sports should override any sort of ill informed notion of what suppressors do for firearms. Being able to manufacture in Texas what would become a valuable accessory to firearms can tap a potential marketplace. Thank

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you.

Harry Wynne

Self-consulting electrical engineer

Aledo, TX

I support this bill. It will help save my hearing and others around me. It is not affordable to pay \$200 for a permit to have a suppressor.

Martin Gavril

self

Waco, TX

I am in favor for the Texas manufacturing of firearm suppressors at night when someone is controlling Hogs or Coyotes to protect their investment These will

- 1, keep from scarring neighbors
- 2, help with combination of hearing protection
- 3, properly target shooting on their own property to not bothering people

Jack Green, Mom's house

Self

Ingram, TX

1. It would protect hunters hearing.
2. It would help with hunting hogs at night.
3. It would help when at the firearm range from the louder rifles

Nathaniel Weidner

Self, Helicopter Mechanic

Magnolia, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

Suppressors provide greater safety for the shooters and bystanders ears

Suppressors help foster a more positive association with firearms

When hunting, it allows the hunter to have less affect on the environment due to the lack of sound pollution

Charles Tompkins, Mr.

Texans

Weatherford, TX

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I support this bill wholeheartedly. A suppressor is just that - a sound suppressor. It truly mitigates the concussive expansion of gasses exiting the muzzle and makes for a more pleasant experience for all those around. It does NOT silence the report of the rifle, contrary to what is seen in the movies or rumored by anti-gun people. It allows the accurate teaching of firearms safety by allowing open communications without the need of large ear muffs, etc. Texas should be the front runner in all things that support the free exercise of the Second Amendment. It preserves all other freedoms, and prevents tyranny from sweeping through the land. There is no justifiable reason this bill should not be passed and made law. Any counter argument is pure rhetoric and

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lies. Be a Patriot, uphold your oaths of office, support freedom, PASS THIS BILL! Texas our Texas, all hail the mighty state!

Richard Mouser

Self, Software Consultant

Dime Box, TX

I support this bill because:

- Suppressors make sport shooting more enjoyable
- This will encourage businesses to be created or move to Texas
- Rural Texans like myself benefit greatly from the use of suppressors as we often grab our guns on short notice to shoot predators, snakes etc. Hearing protection is often an afterthought.

Benedict LaRosa

Self

San Antonio, TX

I have lost some hearing because of the inability to suppress firearms at the range without registering and paying an outrageous tax. We should not have to pay a tax and register a tube to exercise a right and save our hearing. We should never be subject to a felony for wishing to save our hearing. Ear plugs and headsets don't allow you to hear warnings and instructions clearly, and are thus somewhat dangerous.

Charles Brown

Self

EL PASO, TX

Brings Texas back to its Constitution and asserts the rights of Texas over the federal government as this is complying with the U.S. Constitution as a right not granted to the federal government that is reserved to the States or to the People.

Kraig Walker, Captain (ret)

self

Granbury, TX

support

Shane Bertram

Self / Writer

Humble, TX

I support HB 957. Data published by many organizations, including the ATF themselves show that firearm suppressors are almost never used in violent crime. One reason for this is that despite depictions in Hollywood, in almost all cases firearm suppressors DO NOT render a firearm quiet enough to remotely go undetected. What firearm suppressors DO accomplish is lower the decibels of a gunshot to a level which significantly shrinks the hearing damage sustained by hunters and those using firearms for home defense and their families. There is no reason for laws to exist which place a huge burden of both complexity and time, not to mention the \$200 tax stamp onto law abiding citizens who only want to protect themselves from auditory damage. And I believe that Texas should become a sanctuary of this freedom to own firearm suppressors.

Travis Thon

Self

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McKinney, TX

The Texas ban on owning a firearms suppressor is a direct infringement on a basic civil right, which is supported by the second amendment. The fact that the purchase of a suppressor (something that is very clearly created to protect the hearing of firearms owners and is commonly used) is being regulated by the Texas government is antiquated thinking. HB 957 should be passed.

James Skowbo

Self

Georgetown, TX

I strongly support HB-957. This bill helps to protect our hearing from excessive noise and repeals an unconstitutional infringement of a natural right to freely keep and bear arms that protect our freedom and safety, especially from criminals in Washington who seek to destroy the liberty of Texans.

david woodward

self

three rivers, TX

I support HR 957, because it prevents noise pollution, hearing loss, and they have been required in Europe for years because of the benefit. Texas should lead the way for the rest of the country by making sound suppressors legal to make and own in our state. Thank you

Andrew Austin, Mr.

self

Livingston, TX

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL! This bill will:

- 1) Repeal TX criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations. (TX Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).)
- 2) Establish a class of "Made in Texas" suppressors that must be manufactured in Texas from Texas-made parts, must stay in Texas, and are exempt from Federal regulations
- 3) Give a path to secure a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of this law before someone manufactures "Made in Texas" suppressors.

This bill simply reasserts the INDIVIDUAL and STATES' right issue of protecting the 2nd Amendment; the National Firearms Act of 1934 is an abomination towards the very clearly spelled out intention of the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights. With the recent vitriol and pending actions of restrict Individual rights coming from the current President, the time is NOW to secure Sovereignty within the borders of Texas. The Federal Government has become both increasingly hostile towards the concept of Federalism and protecting individual rights, as well as derelict in its duties to do these very same things. A bill such as this makes a very strong and clear statement to the Federal Government with the concept of nullification, much like the current situation nationwide with "legal" Marijuana in several states despite being a Schedule 1 Narcotic.

Stephen Odenthal

Self

Georgetown, TX

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Suppressors are not silent but lower the decibel level to a lesser degree to protect hearing.

Firearms and parts and supplies should not be subject to a federal ownership tax.

The NFA under which firearms and parts and supplies are controlled Is arbitrary and unconstitutional in my opinion.

Jared Davis

self

Liberty Hill, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons: Suppressors are not a measurable contributing factor to crime. Suppressors help reduce hearing damage to the user. Suppressors reduce noise nuisance to neighbors.

Johnathan Edwards, Sgt

Self, student and veteran

San Marcos, TX

Honorable members of the House,

I am writing to you in support of HB 957 for several reasons. First, I'd like to dispel the common misconception that suppressors make a firearm completely silent, second to support personal freedom and the associated responsibility, and third, quite frankly, suppressors make shooting more enjoyable for shooters and others in the vicinity.

So, unlike you see in the movies (and I'm sure many of you already know this) suppressors don't completely silence the report of a firearm except under specific conditions. In order for it to be close to silent the ammunition would need to be subsonic, the suppressor would need to be of sufficient size, and (probably) would work better with a small caliber like a .22 LR. I'm sure any sniper section in the Texas Army National Guard would be happy to demonstrate this for you.

Second, I am of the opinion that legislation should prioritize personal freedom when it is possible that the consequences of the legislation may infringe on that freedom. Too often it seems like the result that people seek these days is to take control away from the citizens and put it into the hands of the government, just as a general rule. My assumption is that those people seek to legislate away as much risk as possible from our society so that they may feel completely safe at all times. While I understand the sentiment, I'd point out that risk never goes to zero and then what are we left with but a society inching closer and closer to an Orwellian nightmare. Please put trust back into your fellow men and women to be able to exercise the responsibility that comes with more freedom.

And lastly, shooting behind a suppressor is much more enjoyable for the shooter and others in the vicinity. I'm already experiencing mild tinnitus after having served 9+ years as a soldier in the National Guard. I wore hearing protection while I was in, but another layer of protection is always better.

Respectfully,
Johnathan Edwards

Zachary Martin

The Martin family

Houston, TX

I support this bill because I support the ability for Texas citizens to be able to own purchase and manufacture suppressors without a federal tax stamp it should've never been a federal item The fact that it is a federal item is absolutely unbelievable because Texas has a hog problem when hunting hogs you have to hunt at night most of the time when everyone else is fast asleep and suppressors make dealing with that problem a lot easier

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stephen walton

old guys

GRANBURY, TX

many target shooters would benefit from locally produced suppressors. I suffer from tintinitus and can not afford a fed licenced hearing protector{ suppressor}.

James Mandl

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill! Suppressors are sold over the counter like an accessory in almost all countries in the world that allow firearm ownership, even the heavily regulated ones because they are just that. It is long overdue that we remove the false impression placed on suppressors by the National Firearms Act, Hollywood, and the media and give them a fair representation by removing them from restricted ownership. They are a valuable device that aids in hearing protection and should be treated as an aid just like over-the-ear hearing protection. Suppressors are not firearms and therefore should not be regulated as one in Texas nor should Texas citizens be taxed on them.

James Epp

Tomahawk Studios

Austin, TX

As a ranch wildlife manager I would greatly appreciate the ability to use a suppressor to help reduce potential hearing damage and wildlife pressure. Protecting my harvest and animals from hogs is top priority and as an avid shooter this would greatly help with protecting my hearing as well as others around me,

Dennis Howell Jr, Mr

Self/ pharmacist

Belton, TX

I believe owning a suppressor should be a less regulated right. Having been a life-long shooter, I know that I would not have the hearing loss today if I had always used a suppressor. They are not “movie quiet” like liberals would have you believe. They purely act as a muffler to reduce the damage caused by using a firearm.

In addition, I would truly enjoy the fact that I am using Texan made products without having to go through the federal regulations that are outdated. Texas would benefit from the added tax base and our economy would benefit from the added jobs. Thank you to the true Texans that vote for this bill

Felipe Salinas

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill because it allows me to teach my children how to use and treat firearms. It will also help reduce hearing loss. It will also bring much needed revenue to the state.

Dave Huffman

self uxd

Round Rock, TX

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Suppressors are mandatory for hunting in some European countries.

The suppressor ban and over-regulation is hurting peoples' hearing. It makes it less enjoyable for people who recreate outdoors and share land with hunters.

Personally, I'm losing my hearing and worried that I'll ultimately go deaf, at least in one ear.

Gregory Romeu

DevilsAdvocateArmory.com

Presidio, TX

Freedom, Liberty and Personal Sovereignty should be the first and foremost protections and delivery of Bills in the Republic Of Texas without question.

There is absolutely no reason to not move forward in the passage of this bill lest there is some sort of diabolical intent to either limit or abrogate the Constitutions of The United States of America, The Republic of Texas and the explicate will of the free people that reside herein.

Should any legislator not see this, there is obviously some schooling on the founding documents and the purposes of their being either elected or appointed to the positions they now hold.

Let's move forward with Freedom, Liberty and Sovereignty of WE, The People and surpass and further action to replace those that are not fully informed of their positions of office or their defined Oaths taken prior to being seated.

David LaFleur

David LaFleur

Buda, TX

I support this bill!

1. This is a safety issue. Hearing loss is easily avoidable with the passage of this bill. Safety first!
2. Federal regulations are always too far reaching, needlessly changing and a bureaucratic mess! This should be a simple process or have no process at all!
3. There is no reason to not pass this measure! It makes it easier to enjoy our hobby without disturbing neighbors or animals.

Anthony Linnenburger

self

Arlington, TX

I am writing in support of HB 957, I believe that this is substantial legislation that needs to be approved for the health and safety of our state.

The ability to use a suppressor should not only fall to those with the financial means to dispose of \$200 dollars on a tax stamp for the sole purpose of being allowed the "freedom" to own one by the federal government.

While suppressors do quite the noise from a firearm it does not do so to the level that Hollywood and opponents of this bill might hope you to believe, we are talking of a reduction to the same range as many power saws. To say that in another way, suppressors typically only reduce the decibel level a little below that which causes instant hearing damage (140db). There are several benefits to this lower noise level among which are: allowing for a safer environment for instruction and causing less disruption to

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neighbors of hunters and shooting ranges.

Being able to hear an instructor is crucial for learning safe firearm handling and practices, this is stymied by wearing traditional hearing protection as the instructor is generally muffled by the protection doing its designed job. Further, wearing bulky and sometimes uncomfortable hearing protection is often a problem for new shooters particularly children who may have fitting issues with common hearing protection which can lead to a lack of protection or even a lack of compliance as they are trying to understand what they are being told or what is going on around them. I would say that the only thing many European nations have gotten right when it comes to firearms is that it is nearly compulsory to use a suppressor as it is considered rude to one's neighbors (both at the range and generally surrounding it) not to utilize one leading to suppressors not being a controlled item any more than general ammo.

Thank you

Joellyn Martin

Self - Petroleum Landman

Houston, TX

I support this bill, as I believe that any suppressor that is made in Texas, for Texans, is not the business of the Federal government and should in no way be subjected to Federal regulations and taxes. This is not a Federal matter and, in fact, I believe it ignores the Second Amendment of the US Constitution that clearly states "shall not be infringed." Placing taxes on firearm accessories, especially those accessories that support the hearing health of both firearm users and those in the vicinity, is nothing but a ploy to restrict Texans from pursuing their God-given rights to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Alan Parker

self - field service / IT

Pleasanton, TX

I support this bill.

My gun range closes at 5pm on Sundays due to noise complaints from neighbors. The range predates them, but their complaints have taken valuable time away from club members nonetheless.

Hearing protection is a large outlay for most shooters, especially those that shoot as families. Being able to save money by using cheaper ear plugs would help in this time of elevated prices for this sport. It would also protect the hearing of all involved.

Feral hog control is enhanced by the use of suppressed firearms. Feral hogs cost Texas about \$50 million in crop damage annually. Hogs kill other wildlife, foul water sources, spread disease, and are dangerous to people and pets. Being able to reduce their numbers by not spooking the entire sounder at the first shot would be capital.

Allowing Texans to exercise their rights is the proper thing to do. The license cost, wait time, and burdensome regulation of suppressors is an infringement that should be removed.

Stand tall, and pass this bill. Thank you for your time.

Richard Reeves

One old retired guy.

San Antonio, TX

Allowing economical suppressors on guns would make the ranges quieter allowing better safety for the range master and all the individuals using the range. Suppressors are widely used throughout Europe as a SAFETY device. Being heard by students and kids could mean the difference between a great day and a really bad day. Besides, my old ears are bad enough from flying jets for the Air Force. This bill could actually spur a few new businesses and raise some funding through state sales tax at NO cost to Texas.

Please pass this bill.

William M Roosa, Mr

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Self

Hutto, TX

As a USMC veteran and knowing the safety of using a suppressor indoors as to protecting hearing. The second reason would be for hunting and especially the wild hogs ruining so much of the land. 3rdly while hunting neighbors would also benefit from the noise reduction as well as the many veterans who suffer from PTSD. Thank y'all and God Bless Texas

Andres Aguilar

self

Houston, TX

I support this bill for Hunting and target shooting as i now have hearing loss from gun use, it would reduce citizens noise complaints at target ranges, and hunting of landowners rights vs homeowners in hearing distance.

John Garza

GOA

Needville, TX

Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of our great state of Texas. As one of your constituent I hereby request that you support this Bill not only for purpose of preserving but also expanding our rights and freedom as Texans. I would like to point out two other benefits for supporting such a Bill. One would be the health benefits to ones hearing ability. Such devices will at the very least dampen loud sounds and enhance the range experience and provide a more enjoyable recreational time. The other benefit and perhaps one of the most important would be the economy boost that Texas companies manufacturing these devices would receive on a state level and beyond. Sincerely John Garza.

William Huston

Myself

Sherman, TX

I support this bill.

- 1) -How can a muffler be regulated as something akin to a hand grenade when one is required to be used on our internal combustion engines? Try riding a straight piped Harley through a fancy neighborhood and see what happens. Firearms are louder than cars, they need to be suppressed. In fact it should be decreed that all firearms be suppressed in order to lower their noise pollution, let's get green.
- 2) -Suppressors make the sport more enjoyable and approachable. Shooting is not just an inalienable right, it's fun. Many people are not educated about weapons, many are intimidated. With muzzle blast greatly reduced by the use of suppressors, and sound lowered to a point where a single type of hearing protection will protect the inner ears of younger folk, the shooting sports will be much more accessible to an ever growing group of new gun owners. Let's teach them right.
- 3)-They're cool. Let's be cool.

Daniel Schormann

Self, Engineer

BURLESON, TX

I support this bill.

1. A suppressor allows the defensive use of a firearm indoors without causing permanent hearing damage.
2. Hunting is safer without the need for hearing protection.

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3. Thousands of Texas jobs would be created immediately to serve the certain overwhelming demand for Texas-built suppressors.

Ralph DePalma, MD
Self/ retired Physician
Aubrey, TX

Suppressors do not silence guns.

- Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage.
- With a suppressor, a gunshot is mid-130's decibels (depending on location, equipment, ammunition).
- The sound of suppressed gunfire is still loud enough that many people still wear hearing protection.
- The occupational hazard limit is 140 decibels.

Suppressors are safety tools.

- A suppressor brings a firearm sound just under the hazard limit, reducing the risk of permanent hearing damage.
- The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible, to safeguard one's health. It is more dangerous NOT to use a suppressor than to use one.

Suppressors benefit the community.

- A suppressor does not lend itself to criminal activity — it makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable, and only reduces the sound 30 decibels.
- Who uses a suppressor? Those who shoot guns and do not want permanent hearing damage.
- When hunting: a suppressor makes it easier to communicate with those around you (no earmuffs)
- A suppressor makes shooting less of a nuisance for the surrounding area. Some countries consider it rude to shoot WITHOUT a suppressor.
- A suppressor reduces recoil, making a gun easier to control, and thus, safer.
- Children, weaker adults, and those with hearing complications find it easier to shoot using a suppressor.

This

Zachary Zapalac
Self / Operator
Wharton, TX

I support this bill for these reasons:

1. Hearing protection and conservation
2. Enhanced accuracy
3. Safer more ethical hunting
4. Less disturbance of the peace

Respectfully yours,

Zach Zapalac
Wharton, TX

Christopher Duncan
self
Austin, TX

Please support this bill.

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Marianne Paulsen

self - retired

BELLEVILLE, TX

I support this bill for various reasons. (1) Suppressors significantly reduce the sound of the shot at the muzzle, though rarely muffle the noise to the point where it is technically ear-safe. But the softer blast is much safer for the shooter's hearing, and that of anyone else in the vicinity. (2) Suppressors actually reduce both the force of the gun's recoil and the shock of the muzzle blast. The lessened kick of the gun and the softer report at the muzzle make guns with suppressors very shooter-friendly and are ideal for those who are prone to flinching and for new shooters. But even experienced shooters will see their marksmanship improve when using suppressors. (3) Because suppressed guns require reduced levels of hearing protection, they make it easier for shooters to speak with each other. Range commands are easier to hear, and in hunting situations (where the use of ear protection is often difficult), they allow for better communication. (4) It is our God-given right, affirmed by the 2A.

Larry Farris

Self

McKinney, TX

I support this bill. HB 957

Firearm sound suppression is a public health concern involving hearing. In virtually all of Europe, firearm suppressors are sold as COTS (Commercial Off The Shelf) accessories. The federal requirement to pay a two hundred dollar 'tax stamp' is uncalled for and actually works against the public health, here in Texas! This bill should be supported and made law.

Gary Runyon

self

Denton, TX

Please support this superb bill. There is no valid reason that these items are regulated and in some countries they are not. Anti-gun people who are concerned that you cannot hear a shot with a firearm equipped with a silencer are ignorant. These items are still loud at around 130 decibels, but reduce the possibility of hearing damage and loss, which occurs at 140 decibels. They are a safety item that should be allowed without restrictions. Thank you.

EDWIN WORNELL

The American people

LUMBERTON, TX

I support this bill because I am tone deaf not from the noise of a firearm but from loud noises in the work place.this bill needs to be passed because it will help my ears when I hunt I should be able to hear other sounds in the woods without having to wear ear plugs.

I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY A TAX to enjoy hunting when this will help save my ears from. Damage.

And it is proven that suppressors are not used to make a firearm soundless like most people think they are in a movie. So if you work for the people of Texas then help us enjoy hunting and stop Taxing us on every thing to make a dollar. That's why we fought for our freedom from England because we were TAXED for everything its time to stop the Tax and make Texas the Greatest state in the union. Remember we are law abiding citizens not criminals but its time to stop Taxing us to the point that we can't enjoy our firearms without having to pay.or making us a criminal because we want to save our hearing. Maybe we should put a Tax on golf balls and golf clubs because we need the money in our pockets there are a lot of people who play golf look at the money we can rake in. see my point it all about money not freedom. So if you had to pay a tax to enjoy golf ,wouldn't you be mad to know you could ride in a golf cart but only if you paid a Tax to enjoy the ride all that Tax says is okay you gave us the money so we will let you have one. Enough is enough. I am sick and tired of being Taxed to death

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Brandon Trutna

Self

Richardson, TX

I support this bill! This bill will make it easier to own silencers which do not silence firearms like in the movies. It makes them "more" hearing safe but you still have to wear hearing protecting when shooting! Silencers or suppressors should be legal to own!

Jack Hartmann

self - engineer

Richardson, TX

I support this bill, and here is why:

1. Federal regulation on intra state commerce (Sale of a suppressor from a TX manufacture to a TX resident) is federal oversight. While Wickard v. Filburn (317 U.S. 111) may be used against this case in defining the role of NFA regulation and ultimately federal regulation. However, the court made it clear that the Commerce Clause applied in that instance due to the impact on interstate commerce, while a reduction in NFA/Federal regulation on suppressors at the state level will have little to no impact on interstate and international trade.

2. Allowing suppressors with reduced regulation as proposed by the bill will incentive suppressor manufactures to relocate or begin production in the state of Texas. The production levels are relatively low in terms of firearm and outdoor products, but that is due to the extensive regulation. Ultimately, the state will benefit economically with the increase transactions of suppressor sales from Texas business to Texas residents.

3. The NFA inclusion of suppressor lack logic and research behind the decision. Suppressors are a beneficial tool for firearms enthusiasts and hunters alike. They do not make a fire arm "silent" as they are often portrayed in media. Instead they lower the volume of a firearm discharge by an amount to reduce hearing damage, which can have long term quality of life and health impacts. On average, a firearm discharge of the common 7.62x39 ammunition produces a 165 decibel report, which is noticeable more than that produced by a jet engine during take off. With a suppressor, that 165 decibel report may be reduced to 135 decibels, which is still louder than a police siren or a rock concert. A firearm discharge with a suppressor is still far from silent, but now within the tolerable level for continued usage with very limited long term hearing damage.

Lastly, There is no reason for suppressors to be included in the NFA to begin with. There is little data to support a ban on the devices for civilians. Many countries in Europe with far stricter gun laws and civilian restrictions still allow suppressors without an additional permitting of fees.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and discuss the topic at hand.

Alan Riske

Self, retired peace officer

Shiner, TX

As a retired police officer from the Ausitn Police Dept in Austin, Tx. I support a localized or state definition of a suppressor, obtainable only by Texas residents. Suppressors prevent hearing loss, and preserve peaceful hunting and target shooting, After 30 years of serving Ausitn as an LEO LT., I have never run into a situation where a suppressor would have prevented or lessened a crime. It's the result of shootings, ie injured people that result in the reporting of a crime in a timely manner, not the gunshot noise itself. Please consider suppressors as just another tool for firearms users. I myself have lost about a third of my hearing capacity after a lifetime of shooting for sport and practice. Suppressors would have lessened that considerably.

Nathan Vernon

Self

Jacksonville, TX

1. A law abiding citizen should not have any gun or accessories restrictions.

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2. Using a suppressor is important for assisting in eradication of the destructive Ferrell Hogs, as well as not to disturb other animals environment while hunting, wheather it be a game animal or not.
3. There are some people, including previous military personnel with PTSD, that are stressed with the sound of fireworks and gunshots. This will help to reduce this, due to a more reduced sound.

Jon Franklin

self, software engineer

Pflugerville, TX

I support this bill. With the population growth in Texas over the last many decades, shooting ranges are getting encroached upon by urban development. There's no reason to restrict the possession of suppressors, and if they were easier to own and possess, the sound pollution of gunfire would be greatly diminished. The fears of them being used for crime is overblown. If there were a demand for suppressors to facilitate crime, homemade suppressors would be way more common, and they are not. Making a homemade suppressor is orders of magnitude easier than a firearm, so the small number of crimes committed with suppressors cannot be attributed to their legal restrictions.

Chris Edmiston

Self

Austin, TX

I SUPPORT HB 957.

Contrary to the way they're portrayed by Hollywood in movies and shows, suppressors do not silence firearms. A more adequate analogy would be like the muffler on a gas powered car. Without the muffler it's much louder, but it's easy to hear a car with a muffler as everyone knows the sound of a car (all gas powered cars have mufflers). Some cars are louder than others, but they all have mufflers. Firearms are similar in that some are louder than others, and the sound could be muffled. Just as many things we know are named poorly, the term silencer is named poorly as well - it muffles (or suppresses) and does not silence anything.

The following chart illustrates a few different firearms decibel (dB) levels both with and without a suppressor.
https://www.silencercentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Silencer_Sound_Comparsion_chart.pdf

A few key points related to the above diagram and discussion:

- * A dB is not a linear measurement. Every 10 dB is 10 times louder than a reference level. So, 20 dB is 100 times (10 x 10) louder.
- * OSHA indicates that "Exposure to impulsive or impact noise should not exceed 140 dB peak sound pressure level." - OSHA 1910.95(b)(2)
- * The average gun shot in the diagram is about 160 dB. This exceeds the 140 dB OSHA limit and is where hearing damage can occur.
- * The same gun fired with a suppressor drops it about 30 dB. This puts the same firearm under 140 dB, but they're still very loud - just like the muffled car is still loud
- * A car is nowhere near as loud as a gunshot. The following article about the loudest cars puts them in the range 80-109 dB, which is muffled. This means a muffled (suppressed) gunshot is up to 1 million times louder than these cars (140 dB - 80 dB = 60 dB = 10^6 = 1 million).
- ** <https://www.caranddriver.com/features/g28659341/loudest-cars-tested-decibels/>

To put the absurdity of it all into perspective, here's the current transportation code for automobile mufflers in Texas:
Sec. 547.604. MUFFLER REQUIRED. (a) A motor vehicle shall be equipped with a muffler in good working condition that continually operates to prevent excessive or unusual noise.

So, in Texas it's required to have a muffler on your car to reduce the sound, but it's illegal to have a muffler (suppressor) on your firearm to prevent hearing loss.

Let's fix the suppressor issue by passing this bill and increase firearm safety by allowing people to prevent possible hearing loss.

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Jason Cravy
Self / Sales
McKinney, TX

The use of suppressors in the State of Texas should be free and without limitations, except in the execution of a criminal act. Suppressors are accessories and aid in the regular practice and refinement of the citizen's skills in the use of firearms. This accessory should not be regulated beyond admission of criminal acts.

Jeff Wilkerson, Houston
Self
Houston, TX

I Jeff Wilkerson support HB 957. I am required to use a muffler on my vehicle so I believe the same should apply for firearms. I already have partial hearing loss in my right ear so I would like to protect the rest of my hearing. I believe that having to pay a tax, due additional paperwork, pay a \$200 tax, and wait a very long time to exercise my 2nd Amendment right is an infringement.

Brian Rogers
None
Midland, TX

I support this bill.
It's a must for hearing protection.
It gives some 2A rights back that should never been restricted.
It gives Texans freedom from tyrannical federal government.
It's not a firearm.
It greatly improves, our younger hunters, experience with hunting.
If you have used one, you will not go back.
They are NOT silent as the media portrays.
Nothing but pro's. No cons.

Brian Cox
Self Sales
Killeen, TX

I support this bill because of the following:

1. These devices protect hearing
2. These devices should never have required a permission from the a federal agency
3. If you tax a right it's not a right, it's a permission slip
4. They lake shooting much more enjoyable

Tristan Havner
self
Hawkins, TX

I write to you in support of this bill. Suppressor are effective in reducing hearing damage for those in defense of themselves/home and while performing legal actions such as hunting. Their restriction by the federal government is senseless, I should not have to choose between my hearing and a prison cell.

Jeffrey Zumwalt
Self - Senior Vice President
Southlake, TX

I support this bill because it just makes sense. Suppressors reduce the noise of a firearm, which is great for hunters and target shooters. Suppressed firearms are still loud, but the chance of hearing damage is reduced. Who would argue against any effort to preserve the hearing and increase the enjoyment of firearm owners.

Sherry Barnes
Self. Retired pharmacist
Whitehouse, TX

I support this bill.
Suppressors do not silence guns but rather reduce the risk of permanent hearing damage. CDC recommends their use
Suppressors reduce recoil making it easier to control and safer.

Thomas Malone
Self
Greenville, TX

I support this bill
It will help conserve my hearing.
It will help conserve the hearing of other recreational shooters and hunters.
It will also cut down on noise pollution.

Sean Sheridan
self, occupation - Information Security Dallas Independent School District
Murphy, TX

I support HB 957 because my hearing is important to me, outdoor shooting ranges are important to me, and Texas should not be doing the bidding of an anti-gun federal government. At 38 years old, I already suffer from Tinnitus. The ringing never stops and it makes hearing detailed sounds like speech difficult sometimes when there is background noise. The last thing I need is to make it worse, especially by using a firearm defensively in my home, where sound is reflected back at me by walls in an enclosed space. I also love Garland Public Shooting Range, which was once isolated in the country but now is surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Being able to quiet the sound from their range would reduce complaints from their residential neighbors who clearly knew there was a shooting range when they decided to move in but nevertheless now want to complain about the noise. Finally, the federal government should not be telling Texans what they can make and own in our own home state.

Robert Perrotta
Self, Chemical Engineer
Houston, TX

I support this bill because:
- I believe it increases entry level firearm knowledge and skills practice by mitigating the loud report of firearms so that practicing is more accommodating
- I believe it removes an obstacle to those that would benefit from firearms possession (practicing, hunting, self-defense) by reducing the noise induced from a firearm from overly influencing one's choice of using a firearm

Ryan McAllister
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Self Project Controls

Pearland, TX

I support this bill! Suppressors should not be included in the NFA. The use of suppressors makes firearm use safer for the shooter and anyone in the area, by reducing the concussive blast of firearm. Additionally, the \$200 NFA tax stamp prohibits those with limited funds to shoot suppressed firearms. I would love to see this bill passed, so freedom-loving Texans from all walks of life can enjoy suppressed firearms and the benefits they entail.

Kyle Guarco, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

Please pass this Bill . Suppressors are in fact protected under the 2nd Amendment. With the direction the Federal Government has been headed, Passing bills like this one is the perfect incentive to bring constitutionally minded Americans to Texas as well as reputable developers and manufacturing jobs that are chased out of states like CT and NY who punish companies for believing in a free and secure state.

Thank you very much.

-Kyle

Aaron Walsh, Mr. /Cpl.

Self

Fort worth, TX

I absolutely support this bill.

- 1) Shall not be infringed applies to accessories as well as firearms.
- 2) I have hearing damage from my time in the Marine Corps as an infantryman.
- 3) This will ultimately help boost the texas economy.

Lee Kuhn

Self

Tomball, TX

I fully support HB 957 for a couple of reasons. For gun owners that likes to shoot at the range a lot the ability to own & use a suppressor to reduce the sound would not only help retain the shooters hearing but also for other shooters around you as well. By opening up the restrictions on purchasing & owning a "made in texas" suppressor this would also help with the supporting local texas businesses and keeping \$\$ flowing to legitimate suppressor & gun businesses in texas.

Seeing all of the gun bills that are currently working their way through the texas house & senate makes me so proud to be a texan and that are representatives are willing to fight for to protect our constitutional rights!

MATTHEW BENNEKEMPER

Myself

Katy, TX

The device does NOT silence the explosive report of a firearm; it only suppresses, or moderates the noise associated with the muzzle blast. There is a benefit to the suppression of that explosion; both to us shooters as well as the environment in which we are shooting. The suppressor acts as a muffler to the report of a firearm. A suppressor is a cylindrical casing with chambers

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referred to as baffles that allow the gasses associated with the explosion of the bullet to depressurize and decelerate; reducing the associated noise of the explosion. The primary reason many hunters go through the effort to acquire and attach a suppressor to their firearms is to be able to listen for game and not have to wear ear plugs or hearing protection while hunting. The benefits include: hearing protection, reduced noise complaints from nearby neighbors, softer recoil, improved accuracy with some setups, and a reduction of the noise impact on the environmental. Most responsible gun owners don't want to waist their time or money to acquire these through the NFA.

Gregory Fenton

Self

Texarkana, TX

I am in support of HB 957 for firearm suppressors made in Texas being exempt from federal law.

Peyton Blanscet, Mr

Self, maintenance technician

Amarillo, TX

Many European countries require suppressors when hunting. The times they have been used in crime can be counted on your fingers. They are little more than protection for your hearing, and make your gun less of a nuisance for those around you. It's far past time to end this regulation wholesale, but Texas, at least, should remove it within its own borders.

Luciano Olmos

self

Katy, TX

I like many other Texans am a strong believer in the second amendment and recreational shooting. I support this bill because suppressors are an essential piece of PPE. Some times hearing protection alone is not enough protection specially when shooting indoors. As a young shooter I want to protect my ears and reduce any possible damage to my ears that comes with firearms. Contrary to popular belief suppressors are not all that quiet like they are in movies, in fact most suppressors are not hearing safe without hearing protection.

I also believe that the second amendment is for everyone and imposing a \$200 tax stamp for a suppressor is denying many Americans and Texans their right to exercise their freedoms. The NFA disproportionately impacts people who are low income and rights shouldn't be only enjoyed by those who can afford it.

Wait times for suppressors are also unbelievably long. I have read and been told by countless people that they have waited for close to a year or more, for the BATFE to approve their tax stamp.

Hugh Swanzy, Jr.

self, retired

Garrison, TX

I support HB 957 by Oliverson and I am asking you to support this bill. I believe that suppressors should be protected under the 2nd Amendment and should not be taxed by the government. I, like many firearm owners would like to own one without our government making them to expensive to own through taxation and fees. As a hunter I would like to have one on my .22 rifle to squirrel hunt with. They are useful on larger caliber rifles to cut down the audible decibels of the rifle report, which helps protect our hearing. Oh, and I think they are way cool! These are just a few thing that I can think of that are useful when it comes to passing this bill on suppressors, so please support HB 957. Thankyou!

Sincerely,

Hugh L. Swanzy, Jr.

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Raymond Cook
Self, Minister
Grand Prairie, TX

Please support HB 597.

William Campbell
Self
Pittsburg, TX

I do not believe the federal government should be deciding Texas laws

Jerry Willis
Self
Tuscola, TX

I support

Charles Freeman
self
Overton, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Texas should lead the way in removing the unhealthy stigma attached to suppressors by Hollywood's movie version of silencers.
2. Suppressors should never have been on the NFA to begin with.
3. Texas should resist the East coast, West coast Leftists' attempts to take away this country's constitutional rights.

David Atkisson, Mr.
Self - retired
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support this bill. As someone who already has diminished hearing, and someone who enjoys firearms, this bill would ensure my ability to enjoy shooting sports and maintain what hearing ability I currently have. This bill would also remove the onerous Federal requirement of the \$200 tax stamp currently required to own a suppressor. And, this bill would support suppressor manufacturing jobs by Texans for Texans.

Ryan Bray
Self welder
Lubbock, TX

I support this bill. The federal government has over stepped the bounds of the second amendment in its taxes and over regulation of firearm sounds muffling devices.

James Stith
Self - engineer

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Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill. The US Constitution allows for regulation of interstate commerce, but should have no authority over products made, sold and bought entirely within Texas. Furthermore, suppressors are NOT firearms and should not be treated as such.

Michael Sisley

self

Schertz, TX

1. Suppressors are not "silencers". The gun still makes a racket. Are they softer sounding? Yes. I used them for many years in the Army. They help keep you from going deaf, a problem I suffer from right now.
2. Suppressors are needed by rural people to eradicate rats. Rats get into everything. With a subsonic load you can really knock them out at night with a .22LR.
3. Freedom. Before the US Government overreach in the 1930s, people could have anything at all related to firearms, ammunition, etc. That was an important loss of freedom that took place. A suppressor is not a firearm. If we want to have them in Texas or anywhere in America we should have them. Our state needs to govern the people, not the democrats from the left and right coasts.

Please say yes to this bill. You good folks in Austin are our last hope at retaining any freedoms. Our DC government has abandoned us all.

Respectfully,
Michael S. Sisley
MAJ (R), USA

Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

I support HB 957, re suppressors made, built and kept in Texas. Suppressors do not silence a gun, but makes it less audible and less hard on the hearing of those around. Many people have hearing problems due to loud noises. Suppressors help lessen the noise but do not get rid of it. I got sick a few years ago and it left me with a noticeable hearing loss. Using a suppressor, although bulky, helps to NOT cause any more damage to my hearing. Also, Texas should be the regulator of what happens in Texas, not the federal government.

Edward O'Neill, Dr

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. The use of suppressors for hunting creates less impact on surrounding property residents, livestock and general quality of life while allowing hunters to partake in recreational hunting like deer or varmint control of hogs. This bill allows TX residents to purchase and use local products made by local manufacturing businesses.

Thaddeus Tidwell

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors do not make firearms "movie" quiet. They make firearms somewhat hearing safe, which is still around 130 decibels or the equivalent of a jet taking off. There is no reason for suppressors to be illegal/heavily regulated. They would make outdoor shooting ranges much more tolerable for nearby housing, save people's hearing, and create more

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manufacturing jobs by introducing a new and broad market. Plus you know, the whole "shall not be infringed" part of the Bill of Rights.

RICK RINEHART, Mr.

SELF

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention in conjunction with the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health published a study in June 2014 entitled Health Hazard Evaluation Report 2013-0124-3208. In this study they found that decibel levels for gun shots was as high as 150. It was their opinion that occupational hazard limit was 140 decibels. They recommended the use of gun suppressors where possible. I believe they are correct in there thinking. Gun suppressors do save hearing.

Suppressors are tools for safety just like protective eye wear or leather gloves. They act like mufflers to protect human hearing. Since much of the shooting takes place at indoor ranges (Red's Indoor Ranges) in Texas, suppressors are even more critical to the well being of human hearing. If you have been to an indoor range you know exactly what I am talking about.

And finally, Texans are a proud people. Proud of their independent spirit and proud of their heritage. TEXANS want to be free of federal government over reach. TEXANS know what's best for TEXAS. MADE IN TEXAS means something. It means we don't need some Santa Anna type telling us what we can and can't do. I ask you to be the Heros and stand between TEXAS and Washington and pass this bill.

Respectfully,
Rick Rinehart

John DeLaGarza

self

Portland, TX

Support HB 957

Suppressors are safety items. They do not completely silence a gun, but they will protect hearing. This is especially useful on a defensive firearm for use within the home. Firing a gun inside an enclosed area like a house can cause hearing damage. I was forced to use a gun in self defense, and while my hearing was not greatly damaged from the single shot I fired it however has been affected. I now have difficulty hearing certain sounds and tones.

Additionally allowing more Texans to own and use suppressors will help cut down on some noise pollution as more begin to use them for recreational shooting.

Vidya Mudaliar

Self

Prosper, TX

I strongly support this bill because the National Firearms Act of 1934 needs to be nullified by the state of Texas. The federal regulations germane to suppressors in said act directly violate the second amendment of the United States Constitution, and Texas has the duty to circumvent that unconstitutional act. This bill will give Texans a path to manufacture and purchase suppressors legally outside of the onerous federal scheme and avoid having to pay a ludicrous \$200 tax to the federal government.

Andres Velazquez

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self

Friendswood, TX

I support this bill and feel that it will remove the unnecessary ban currently in place. As a veteran who has lost hearing during my time in service this would help offset the negative effects of muzzle blast in the event of a home defense situation and help to retain the hearing I have left. Suppressors themselves do not "silence" the blast but dampen it, the sound is still significantly loud and wouldn't place it outside the audible range. I do not feel that putting citizens on a registry and making an already expensive purchase even more expensive (ATF/legal fees) a reasonable measure, this places a burden on a citizen who cares to protect their hearing and exercise their rights but maybe not have the funds to do so and are uncomfortable with the idea of essentially being on a watchlist. This would give more freedom to the average Texan and show to other states that rights are inalienable and should not be compromised, we see routinely that states are willing to change laws whether it be on the issue of legalizing certain substances, abortion, immigration etc. states have and will bypass federal laws to update their legislation to the will of the people. This is an opportunity to upgrade from the obsolete suppressor regulations and give the average Texan hearing protection and further expound upon the second amendment without infringement. Once again a suppressor equipped firearm does not silence a firearm it dampens the blast but still is a very high decibel range by standards of OSHA and will not aid in concealment and stealth, as the opponents of this bill might suggest, please strongly consider supporting this bill and give Texans, one of the most armed states in the union, a law we can be proud of.

Ricky Griffith

Self, CSO and PPO

Tyler, TX

Please support this bill.

Edward AWollent

Citizen

Grapevine, TX

I support this bill. I wish to have this additional option to suppress my rifle as added protection for my hearing.

Max Farber

Self, IT

Round Rock, TX

Suppressors are almost never used in crime and can be beneficial to the hearing of firearm users and those around them. There is no data driven reason to regulate suppressors or silencers, and the current federal regulation is nothing but a tax revenue stream. Please support HB957 and let Texas lead the way in sensible firearm legislation.

Mitchell Allen

Self

Houston, TX

I have tinnitus from hunting and target shooting that suppressors would have prevented. It also helps noise mitigation for those around me and saves their hearing. Even at a gun range with hearing protection, my ears ring even more when a large caliber weapon is fired next to me. Suppressors only reduce noise levels to a healthy level. They do not silence the noise as seen in Hollywood movies.

Kerry Rosenberry

Self

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Pittsburg, TX

I strongly support anything that removes the ridiculous regulations attached to firearms suppressors. Firearms suppressors make shooting more enjoyable and safer, as well as reducing noise pollution to those in surrounded areas where shooting is going on.

I already own a legal suppressor after paying for my \$200 tax stamp. It would be nice to be able to add some for my other calibers as well. We live in a rural area and I'm sure my neighbors would appreciate me using suppressors on more of my firearms.

Michael Lauer

Self, Surveillance Analyst

Houston, TX

Good evening,

After going through the NFA process to own my first suppressor I 100% support this bill.

1) current regulations are already in place where legal firearm owners can purchase NFA items. However, the NFA process takes months and does nothing but deter would be owners.

2) Supporting local Texan owned businesses and will incentivize intra-state commerce as well as spur innovation.

3) We don't have to pay \$200 for a stamp from the 1930s and wait 6 months (on a good run) for something we're lawfully allowed to own.

4) Suppressors are awesome. I implore anyone who had not gone to the range or hunted with one to try.

Aaron Herrera

self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I believe this bill is long over due, suppressors were regulated back in 1934 due to the National Firearms Act. The reason that suppressors were regulated was because they believed that during the depression people would go on and use them to poach wild game, not because they were used for crimes like a great number of society today thinks. They were regulated because people were starving and the government feared that citizens would hunt animals illegally and suppressors would help them do that. Well almost 100 years and this is still in effect, why though? We are not in a depression anymore and there's a small majority of Americans who hunt or know how to hunt, plus poaching isn't a concern anymore. Suppressors have no reason anymore to be a regulated item for firearms. They help with many different reasons, one of the most important being they prevent irreversible hearing damage. America was founded on gun culture, it is a enormous part of who we are as Americans and its our God given right here in America. Shouldn't we have the option to not go deaf or have any other type of hearing damage like tinnitus, just from participating in our hobbies or extra circular activities, I believe so. Suppressors also other great benefits like making it more pleasant for communities or neighbors near a shooting range or property where sport shooting partakes. They also make shooting pleasant for people with weaknesses or disabilities as they make the weapon have less recoil because of the added weight they provide to the front of the firearm. The conclusion being suppressors should not be regulated devices they are similar to that of a car muffler and help bring down the deafening tone of firearms and make it more pleasant, the regulations is out dated and needs to go.

curtis dunson

Self, sales

fort worth, TX

Hollywood has given the public a false idea about suppressors. They don't eliminate the sound, but they do make it far easier on the ears, and drastically reduce the damage to your hearing. They are legal in Europe, and should be far easier to get here.

michael pincheira

Self

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Wilmer, TX

This would allow texans to use firearms without the risk of hearing loss as well as keep areas with gun ranges much quieter. This bill would also bring texas up to par with most european countries which understand this point.

Mark Kunze

Self

Temple, TX

I support this bill.

Firearm suppressors are meant to lessen sound pollution.

Suppressors make shooting more enjoyable and less intimidating for new shooters (and older ones).

Thanks, Mark

Hector Blanco

self

El Paso, TX

I support Bill 957 because suppressors should not be highly regulated firearm accessory that is main purpose is to reduce noise decibels therefore providing hearing protection. For example, suppressors can be attached to a home defense firearm and can help prevent hearing damage when used indoors. Suppressors also offers advantages when hunting game.

Earle Hinkley

self and spouse

Decatur, TX

We support this bill for the following reasons:

1. We are sovereign citizens of sovereign state of Texas, so we can decide what is best for our state, independent of what the federal government believes about this issue.
2. Suppressors do not silence gun shots. They only reduce the their report. Also, they protect the hearing of the shooter and any spectators nearby.
3. The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (2A) prohibits infringement of the people's right to bear arms. We believe that the 2A applies to suppressors used on firearms to protect the hearing of the shooter and nearby spectators.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment!

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Earle Hinkley

Richard Felo

Self

San Antonio, TX

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I support this bill because

1. It protects hearing most importantly.
2. It reduces annoying neighbors while hunting
3. Can reduce noises from outdoor gun ranges if their more accessible.

JJ Williams

Self

Queencity, TX

For

Grant Wright

Self/ Account Manager for Offshore support

Needville, TX

I support this Bill in an effort to save my hearing, my wife's hearing and my children's hearing. We should be able to use these in conjunction with other hearing protection while practicing or hunting without the permission of the federal government and without their extortion.

Joshua Tyler

Self

Temple, TX

I support this bill. This will free up opportunities for additional Texas small businesses to manufacture suppressors, create a larger opportunity for low-income citizens to acquire and use suppressors for sport, recreation and overall reduce hearing loss and noise pollution related to firearms usage.

Michael Jesse

Self

Georgetown, TX

I support this bill due to the fact that suppressors well be much readily available and will prevent hearing loss. Suppressors are very essential because they lower the amount of decibels to manageable levels that will not impair hearing and protect our hearing. They can be compared to mufflers to our vehicles; lower the amount of decibels and reduce omissions.

John Gillaspy, Mr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Current federal process is time consuming and difficult for first-time buyers. The current wait for a Form 4 NFA item is a year.
2. I like to shoot and I like my hearing. Being able to hear range commands as well as what is going on around me hunting (while protecting my hearing) is paramount.
3. When looking at other countries (especially Europe and the UK) suppressor ownership and use is mandatory for rifles for noise

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abatement. For all their strict firearms laws surely we could use this one.

John Gillaspy

Tommy Attaway

Self - Investor

Dallas, TX

I support this bill to make this safety equipment used more widely in Texas.

Jason Thumann

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons.

1. Hearing safety.
2. 2nd amendment clearly states our right shall not be infringed.
3. Boost Texas economy for local Texas jobs!

Christian Grandorf

Self, Program Manager

Springtown, TX

I support this bill. Despite common representation in film and media, suppressors do not “silence” a firearm, they merely reduce the sound to a hearing-safe level. Using a firearm without hearing protection, especially in self defense where one does not necessarily have time to prepare with proper hearing protection, can result in permanent and severe hearing loss. Under current federal regulations, the \$200 tax stamp required to purchase a suppressor is cost prohibitive for many firearm owners.

Michael Duman

self, technical manager at a fortune 500 company

Garland, TX

As a firearms enthusiast with documented hearing problems, the use of a suppressor would be highly beneficial at protecting the hearing that I have left.

I also believe any accessory which makes using a firearm safer and more accessible to people who might not be so strong should be readily made available.

This bill would also provide a method to create jobs in Texas for those in the firearm accessory business.

Richard Wilson

self, engineer

Katy, TX

I support this bill. Hearing protection and courtesy to others should not require a \$200 tax and 9 months of waiting.

Paul Williams

Self - Engineer

Victoria, TX

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I support this bill. Firearm suppressors benefit both the shooter and the general public by reducing the amount of noise produced by a firing weapon. While hearing protection should still be worn by the shooter, a suppressor can significantly reduce the chance of hearing damage. The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health.

Freddy D, Mr

Self

El Paso, TX

I fully SUPPORT this bill! As an individual with hearing issues, due to my line of work, being able to own suppressors without having to wait a ridiculous waiting period & having government intrusion is absolutely helpful! I can recreationally go shooting and hunting with minimal worries about my hearing a lot sooner, if this bill was to pass. Not only for myself, but countless other law-abiding Texans can protect their hearing without the unnecessary red tape.

james britton

self

greenville, TX

I support this bill. I see no logical reason we can't own a suppressor. It drastically reduces noise pollution, helps protect the shooters hearing and it's not " quiet " like in movies. It won't make it possible to fire and no one heard it.

Thanks James

Christopher Bailey

self

Corinth, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

-Hearing protection is a paramount concern for hunters and sport shooters alike. Although suppressors do NOT silence firearms, they can reduce the shot volume by 25-35dB, greatly reducing the likelihood of damage to someone's hearing.

-This bill supports the Constitution of the United States (2nd Amendment) and Texas' long-history of pro-2A advocacy while acknowledging the overreach of the Federal government and its unconstitutional laws and taxes on hearing safety devices.

-This bill supports the Texas firearms industry, largely comprised of small businesses employing a wide-range of Texans including minorities, veterans, and those with disabilities.

Michael Devasher

self, self-employed

Bonham, TX

I support this bill. Proliferation of suppressors is a health-safety issue, the devices minimize the noise of guns being fired. In Europe, suppressors are widely encouraged by governments for hunting as a health-safety device to preserve the hearing of hunters and target shooters. In addition this bill, if passed, will encourage boutique manufacturers in Texas and contribute to creating more jobs in-state.

R M, N/A

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill as the existing rules on suppressors are a major hassle for the law-abiding and largely an irrelevance to criminals.

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Cristian Banu
Self - ramp agent
Cedar Creek, TX

I fully support this bill. Silencers are safety devices, protecting our hearing, and should be widely available and encouraged, not heavily regulated. I want to see Texans manufacturing, selling and owning "Made in Texas" silencers that are not subject to federal regulations through the "interstate commerce" fraud.

Michael Brockway
Self
Greenville, TX

I support this. No other nation regulates these, they are a tube of metal and are in fact safety equipment. New Zealand they are actually required. They don't make guns silent murder weapons, they make them safer for your hearing. They are still loud, and unmistakably a gun firing, they just won't blow out your eardrum. I would much prefer a neighbor firing on their property to use one so I don't have hear the crack from miles away. An indoor range would be much less obnoxious to its neighbors. A weapon with a silencer is much larger and more difficult to hide than one without. Honestly silencers should be required equipment within city limits and for hunting because of the sound issue but our antiquated gun laws have actually harmed hearing safety.

PAUL HORNE
Private citizen
Clarksville, TX

Honorable Sir
I support this bill in its entirety. The US ATF wanted to remove suppressors from their Class 3 listing but realized they would have to return the \$200 fees and decided to leave them alone. These are Not weapons and pose No danger to the public. Thank you

Jay Melton, Mr
Self, Electronics Technician
Crandall, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons;

1. For those who 'embrace' all things European as being the 'right way' , in some European countries, a firearm suppressor can be purchased 'over the counter', no onerous rules, regulations and excessive cost. Off the subject, but pertinent, a short barreled rifle is also legal to purchase, no more difficult to legally buy than a full length rifle.
2. Suppressors being more available and at lower cost can make casual shooting on an organized range or one's personal, informal range less intrusive regarding noise, requiring less comprehensive ear protection.

Sincerely,

Jay Melton

Ian Scofield, MR
self, IT
Liberty Hill, TX

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I support this bill as it allows for safer use of guns by protecting hearing. Suppressors do not make a gun more dangerous or more likely to commit a crime.

Chris Muncy

self

CONROE, TX

I support this bill.

Suppressors are a huge benefit as far as shooting sports are concerned as it reduces the amount of loud noise generated with higher caliber rifles.

Taking 6 to 10 months to get a tax stamp to get a suppressor, even after jumping through all of the ATF's hoops, even though you already have a CHL/background checks in place is ridiculous.

I have a huge problem with the federal government mingling in the business of Texans when it comes to owning firearms and accessories. Laws and regulations liek the ATF have on the books for suppressors only hurt law abiding Texans.

I would love to see the State of Texas pass a sweeping law that prohibits the federal government from regulating firearms and accessories in this great state.

Jay Cruz

Self/Texas Resident

Dallas, TX

Suppressors are heavily regulated due to the misinformation regarding them. Suppressors are made with the intent to mask the flash of a gun being fired. They do not "suppress" the sound of the gun itself, as even with a suppressor, it is still loud. Restricting the law abiding citizen from using their second amendment rights will only hurt us, while empowering criminals who will bypass laws through their actions. The law should punish criminals, not those who are law abiding.

Marypaul Bom

Self

Montgomery, TX

I support this bill because it makes sense!! NO laws should be made against being able to own a gun/accessories if you are not a felon.

MBom

Anthony Moore

Outdoor Media Group, Inc.

Bowie, TX

I support this bill for the following A suppressor would help reduce the hearing damage a shooter and the spectators. it would generate more taxable business in our great state. and it would more than likely drive out of state businesses to move to our state where we welcome shooting sports.

Aaron Ramirez

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I support this bill. Repealing the ban would protect the hearing and reduce noise pollution in hunting grounds.

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Repealing this ban would reduce cost of burden on enforcing this unconstitutional law, it serves no purpose on an item that is nothing more than just a "mini-muffler", No crime has been made with these NFA items and it just creates red tape that puts a cost on the government having to monitor and operate on regulating these NFA items.

And last but not least. Its unconstitutional; The 2nd amendment states "shall not be infringed" and as far as Iam concerned before the existence of the device, there was no legislation that existed and during the NFA act legislation. There was NO LEGAL REASON why it should be banned. It was just included on the NFA bill and congress didnt provide any evidence or proof of it's "lethality."

Remove the ban.

Christopher Pew

Self

Hutto, TX

I support this Bill

It Helps protect the hearing and health of shooters

it helps gun ranges and hunters be less of a burden on their community/ surroundings

the view of completely silent guns used by assassins is false. guns using a suppressor still make noise when shoot, just not ear damaging.

Steven Hunt

Self operator of critical infrastructure

Refugio, TX

I support HB 957 by Oliver's. Reason1 because the tax requirement is an arbitrary rule enforced by an agency that does not write law and is abusing it's power by focusing suspiciously on firearms by a majority. Reason 2 it is unconstitutional and against the bill of rights to infringe upon US citizens rights to own and bear firearms. Reason 3 is because the 200 dollar tax and the wait time is a barrier to ownership for citizens to own a common use item.

Russell Hughes

self

leander, TX

I'm currently going through the process of getting my suppressor for my hunting rifle and I've only not purchased one in the past because of the extended hassle of doing it. Purchasing this suppressor in the past would have helped save my hearing from the severe Tinnitus I currently have. I'm a 7th Gen Texan and lifelong hunter and I'm looking forward to getting my suppressor so I can save the remainder of my hearing for my little girls for a lifetime to come, but I wish it had come sooner.

Suppressors serve more purposes than that. We have been overrun by wild hogs on our lands and suppressors give hunters a fighting chance to save crops and properties from them. Please pass common sense bills on this and we appreciate you navigating the fear tactics these have been labeled in the past.

Marvin Lewis

Self

Rockport, TX

I fully support this bill. This is long overdue and will provide hearing protection, reduce stress on game animals and, mostly, allow possession of an item that should've never been on the NFA list in the first place.

Stephen Allphin

Self, Small business owner

Aubrey, TX

I support this Bill.

1. On principal - The 2nd Amendment says the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed. This includes the accessories related to arms. Having to ask permission and pay a tax is by definition an infringement.
2. Health of shooters - Hearing loss is a serious problem and anything we can do to help with this should require government permission and payment of a tax.
3. Respect for others - I live in the country and can shoot safely on my property. If I shoot without a suppressor, all my neighbors have to deal with the noise pollution. If I use a suppressor, only my closest neighbors (if they happen to be outdoors) will even know I'm shooting. To me it just the neighborly thing to do and why should I have to ask permission from the government to limit the amount of noise I make when shooting.

Bret Strong

Self / Independent Consultant

Rhome, TX

I support this bill as there is no valid reason in my opinion for not allowing the suppression of noise that can be harmful to ones hearing. Also the second amendment states that "shall not be infringed" most federal and/or state "gun control" laws violate that part of the constitution.

Martin Goodrich

Self

Schertz, TX

I support this bill as it decriminalizes the possession of a suppressor and establishes a made in Texas suppressor. Suppressors are beneficial as they reduce the sound of a gunshot which will reduce the potential for hearing damage.

Best Regards,

Martin Goodrich

Michael Clark

goa

Dallas, TX

please pass this bill. it is a public safety measure.

William Glosson

GOA, NRA, TSRA, SAF, CCRKBA, ISRA & SELF & FAMILY ALL TEXANS

Trinity, TX

I have reduced hearing because of my failure to know about NOISE from firearms when young. WE need programs to help young people to know and be PROTECTED. Suppressors work in that way. making suppressors a bad thing is as SILLY as it can

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be. Make anything to do with safety a PRIORITY!...IMO

Justin Day

Myself

Texas City, TX

I support this bill because suppressors protect the hearing of the gun owner. Also anything made and sold within the state of Texas should only be regulated by Texas and not the often overreaching federal government we currently have.

Nick Conder

GOA

Keller, TX

I support this bill 1) GOD given right 2) hearing protection 3) support Texas business 4) allow Texans to choose our own rights

Steve McDaniel

Self

Dike, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors make firearm use safer by reducing hearing damaging noise for all in the area of the firearm (as much or more than wearable hearing protection). They also improve accuracy by increasing bullet velocity. The constitution limits federal oversight to interstate commerce, so please stand up for those of us law abiding citizens who use suppressors for all legal purposes within the state and pass this legislation.

Cody Pope

self -Regional Manager

Midland, TX

I support this bill for three reasons: First, it would help counteract the federal government overreach into our second amendment rights. The National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) is an infringement that is unconstitutional. Second, suppressors would help with hearing protection for those who are avid shooters, including hunters and competitive shooters. Third, this law would bring business to Texas as companies would manufacture "Made in Texas" suppressors. Texas is one of the largest markets for shooting sports and hunting. Texans would benefit from this economically.

Brett Sonnenberg

GOA

Fort Worth, TX

This bill gives us back rights we should never have given up. Suppressed firearms make every one around them less likely to suffer from hearing loss. These devices don't make any firearm more dangerous or undetectable they only reduce the noise to a level that is safe for our hearing. The federal government is violating the constitution and it's only going to get worse. We must start protecting our rights as states to stand up to these constant violations.

Yazan Al-Amin

Self, Business Owner.

Richardson, TX

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I am a proud resident of Texas and I support this bill. The reasons I support this bill is:

1. Suppressors do not make firearms silent killers. The function they serve is to lower the sound marginally to make a firearm hearing safe, just like the muffler on a car, both of which are still audible.
2. The Hollywood Screen has turned Suppressors into the implement of an Assassin, which paints it in an evil killer image. It is just a tool/part that cannot harm someone.
3. The Federal restrictions make hearing protection like suppressors only available to the rich, and it discriminates against the poor and minorities to preserve their hearing while they defend themselves from assailants or even police that have become hostile due to misidentification.

Texas should rise above the Federal crony elitism.

James Horn

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support this Bill. Criminals are going to do what they want regardless of the law. With that said, suppressors are used by law abiding citizens for the purpose of firearm training on private land and hunting. If we are enforcing the laws we currently have and preventing the bad people from purchasing and owning guns, this Bill will have no effect what-so-ever on on crime in the State.

Tim Allen

Self

Lakeway, TX

As a hunter, target shooter, and Texas resident, I support HB 957 by Oliverson for the following reasons:

1. Noise Pollution Reduction- noise pollution is a major issue in today's day and age, and firearm suppressors greatly reduce the noise impact of using a firearm for lawful purposes.
2. Hearing Protection- hearing erosion and impact is a major concern for me and my family. Obtaining a Federal tax stamp is an expensive and arduous process. By allowing us to buy and own Texas made suppressors, we would be allowed to conveniently enjoy our sport without limitation with little impact to our hearing health.
3. Argument against suppressors make no sense- The main argument agains suppressors is that they limit Law Enforcement's ability to combat gun crime. This is an old argument that does not take into account our modern forms of communication and sound forensic capabilities. This is an old argument and has not stood up against the test of time.

I request that a law is passed for Texas made suppressors be made available to all Texas residents without limitation.

Thank you.

Milton Maldino

self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

I support this bill because suppressor ownership should be promoted among private citizens in Texas... The current restrictions are only in place because it was thought that suppressors would be used in criminal activity. The statistics show this is not true. Thank you.

Carlos Franco

self

El Paso, TX

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I support this bill. Suppressors are designed to protect our hearing. Having lost part of my hearing, I understand how important it is to protect the rest of it. That is exactly what suppressors do, protect our hearing. They are not Hollywood quite, that is a myth. They require a 200 tax stamp that puts them out of reach of those of use who need them. Not only that it takes a year to get them.

Jim Vessels, retired teacher

Self - retiredHB 957

Whitesboro, TX

I support this bill . I would appreciate your support of this bill when vote is taken. Thank you.

James Pinion

None

Lubbock, TX

I support this bill.

Many of our older veterans have severe hearing loss from using firearms during their service, the use of suppressors helps them and all those around them to maintain their hearing in case of a problem with hearing protection. Suppressors also reduce noise from gun ranges or qualified private property helping the noise sensitive such as folks with PTSD to cope with everyday life. Lastly, suppressors have received a bad reputation from movies and TV, they do not make a gun whisper quiet, they only partially reduce the sound produced, and are very rarely used in a crime to hide the crime.

ANGELA MILLER

SELF

BAYTOWN, TX

WE DON'T NEED THE GOVERNMENT TELLING US WHAT WE CAN AN CANT HAVE. LOOK AT THE MESS THEY GAVE MADE OF THIS COUNTRY.

Alan Braxton

self

Van Alstyne, TX

I support this Bill

it protects peoples hearing and prevents hearing damage.

It also prevents excessive noise

Puts these protections in the hands of People of Texas

thank you

David Gordon, Mr.

Self (investment management and financial services; also Owner/Manager of a Federal Firearms Licensee -- Type 01 Dealer -- and firearms instructor)

Bellaire, TX

I SUPPORT this bill for the following reasons:

- 1) Suppressors are vital in home defense situations because firing indoors can seriously damage unprotected hearing. I can put on my hearing protection when responding to a home alarm event, but other occupants of my house (such as small children) cannot. If I need to fire at an intruder, my family members' hearing is at risk.
- 2) Suppressors only modify the sound of a firearm discharge, they do not typically eliminate it. They meet none of the other

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criteria the National Firearms Act uses to restrict certain weapons and attachments, such as increasing lethality, rate of fire, or concealability. In fact, attaching a suppressor makes any firearm MORE DIFFICULT to conceal. Suppressors only have clear practical use for home defense, hunting and outdoor sports.

Kelly Brown

Self

Forney, TX

I support this bill.

1. The use of suppressors protects the hearing of the shooter and those around them.
2. The additional cost of the federal stamp and the application process place an unnecessary burden on the citizens of Texas.

Joseph Combs

Self/ Occupation :Critical Environment Technician

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill,

A suppressor only lowers the decibel of the firearm to a safer level, as someone who already has experienced some hearing loss it's important to me to protect what I still have.

A suppressor doesn't lend itself well to criminal as it makes firearms heavier and longer, and I don't think an individuals access should be restricted from ownership.

Kyle McAdams

Self, Executive Manager, Brown Automotive Group

Amarillo, TX

I strongly support this bill. My primary reasoning is suppressors are not the glorified "silencers" as portrayed by Hollywood. They're only a muffler designed to eliminate the sonic crack made by a bullet which can cause hearing damage to a shooter or to bystanders in close enough proximity. I am 45 years old w/ slight tinnitus in both ears due to hunting and shooting in my younger years w/out quality ear protection. Utilizing a suppressor will help other people not suffer these kinds of effects as well as add to the enjoyment of everyone who is in the area of the firing line at a range or in the field while hunting. It also helps to keep noise down to reasonable levels for neighboring properties. The fact suppressors are such a highly regulated tool with the ability to protect against hearing damage/loss has never made sense to me and passing HB 957 would be a positive step in the right direction. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle McAdams

Amarillo, Texas

Ron Farace

Self

Kingwood, TX

I support HB 957. The State of Texas currently criminalizes the owning of suppressors and imposes a \$200 fee for those who want one. This clearly discriminates against those who cannot afford it. Suppressors reduce the decibel level. In this day and age of "gun safety", and "believe the CDC in all matters" it should be noted that the CDC recommends the use of suppressors. Further suppressors reduce gun recoil, making them safer. As with all "gun control" measures there is a great deal of misinformation being spread. Please be a good steward and responsible public servant, cut through the lies, and pass this bill.

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Sincerely
Ron

Jorge Chavez
Self - Law enforcement
New Braunfels, TX

I support this bill because suppressors are a safety item, both to the owners and those around them. There is no information proving that suppressors make firearms more 'deadly' nor any recent crimes where a suppressor was used, or would have made a difference in the outcome. Suppressor use while at the range allows me to more safely instruct my wife and children without worrying about them suffering hearing loss. In addition, in the unfortunate event that I would have to use my firearm in my home to protect my family the noise exposure of a firearm being fired inside without hearing protection is extremely damaging to anyone exposed.

Kevin Pierce
Self
Allen, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:
Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage.
With a suppressor, a gunshot is mid-130's decibels (depending on location, equipment, ammunition).
The sound of suppressed gunfire is still loud enough that many people still wear hearing protection.
The occupational hazard limit is 140 decibels.

These following points are all positive:
Repeal TX criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations. (TX Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).)
Establish a class of "Made in Texas" suppressors that must be manufactured in Texas from Texas-made parts, must stay in Texas, and are exempt from Federal regulations
Give a path to secure a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of this law before someone manufactures "Made in Texas" suppressors.

Currently this is unfair to those who cannot afford to protect their hearing and a tax to the US federal Government:
To own a suppressor, one must comply with an onerous set of Federal rules and regulations that include a \$200 tax stamp and a lengthy wait –
sometimes over a year. (National Firearms Act of 1934.)

Every Law abiding Texan should have the ability to protect their hearing for the most cost effective means at the same time help Texas companies.

Nathan Brown
self
Arlington, TX

I support this bill. Firearm suppressors are a safety device designed to make recreational shooting safer for the shooter and bystanders. Keeping suppressors heavily regulated would be a prime example of a law that is a detriment to law abiding citizens while having no measurable effect of on the reduction of crime.

William Lambeth
Self
Midlothian, TX

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I support this bill. It protects hearing, reduces noise pollution and allows people to better enjoy shooting

Erik van
self

Lexington, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

It will create Texas jobs.
It is healthier, lowering sound impact to your and the ears of others.
Better for the environment .

Rick Womack

Self, owner of Priority 1 Forensic Fire & Explosion Investigations

WILSON, TX

Suppressors are necessary to protect the hearing of the shooter. As an owner of several suppressors they only reduce the noise to a to a lower decibel that is safer for your ears. I have never heard of a shooting incident that involved a suppressor in a crime. The federal tax stamp should be eliminated.

Michael Rocus, Mr.

self/farmer

Honey Grove, TX

I support HB 957. Suppressors reduce hearing damage. Good for when hunting feral hogs. Good for when hunting coyotes. Reduces recoil which is good for quickly recovering from multiple shots at feral hog sounders. Reduces muzzle flash that will give away the hunter's position when hunting feral hogs with night vision scopes.

David Boggio

null

LYTLE, TX

I support this bill because the state of Texas must preserve it's right to conduct the affairs of the state without the onerous intrusion of the federal government. Their intrusions are meant to ultimately disarm the American populace. Texas must stand its ground and manage its own affairs.

William Albert, Mr

Life Member, Gun Owners of America

Woodsboro, TX

I support this bill, the federal government has no business regulating in-state commerce. Suppressors are not a federal firearms problem, they're a health problem. You were saving someone's hearing.

Ryan Merchant

Self

Kyle, TX

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I support this bill as it will help protect the hearing of individuals in the case of hunting, sport shooting, and home defense, eliminate unnecessary wait times and government paperwork, and minimize unnecessary taxes.

Peter Hinkle

Self

Boerne, TX

I support this bill because it is preposterous that suppressors aren't readily available to the public already. They cause no harm, they promote no crime, and all of the myth created by Hollywood about suppressors making guns silent are outright false. In almost every case, suppressors don't even make a firearm ear safe without wearing hearing protection. They do make the environment much more pleasant for the shooters and everyone around them. It's no different than a muffler on a car, you can still easily hear it, it's just not deafeningly loud.

Cal Dean

Self/business owner

Richmond, TX

I strongly support HB 957. Suppressors have no downside. They are not movie quiet but they do help to protect the hearing of both the shooters and those around him from hearing damage. They mitigate the noise from shooting ranges for surrounding homeowners. Suppressors are no use in crime as they're expensive, add to the length of the weapon and do not lessen the noise enough to give any advantage. I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Cal Dean

John Howell, Dr.

Self - Physician

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill for several reasons, some of which are:

Suppressors do not "silence" firearms. The sound of suppressed gunfire is still loud enough that many people still wear hearing protection.

Suppressors do reduce the risk of permanent hearing damage by bringing a firearm sound just under the hazard limit. The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health.

Suppressors do not lead to criminal activity – they make firearms heavier, longer, and less concealable, and only reduce the sound about 30 decibels.

Suppressors do reduce recoil (by as much as 30%), making a firearm easier to control, and thus, safer.

Thank you for your attention.

Ryan Kilburn

Self, occupation is in IT

Haslet, TX

I fully support this bill!

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Alan Perez

Self

Cleveland, TX

Please pass this bill.

Citizens should not be threatened with imprisonment for wanting to protect their hearing and reduce noise pollution when outdoors.

RONALD TIMOTHY

-- please select a prefix --

Commerce, TX

I support this bill! Let's get the feds out of Texas business. Let's be the leader in second Amendment support legislation among all states. Texans should be able to do second Amendment business in Texas with other Texans. Let's stop the erosion of second Amendment rights by liberals who we don't support.

Charles Girouard

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill. I am a hunter and eliminating hearing damage is of utmost importance. Secondly, a tax only makes suppressors more expensive, it accomplishes nothing else. Sending taxes to the Federal Government, and limiting procurement to licensed manufacturers, most out side of Texas, does nothing for Texans. Suppressor technology is not stealth technology - guns don't stop making noise, significant noise is still made - Hollywood representation of suppressors is a myth. Be it pistol sports or rifle sports, or be it self defense, there should not be laws to inhibit the protection of hearing if a law abiding citizen chooses to take up a firearm to engage in such.

Charles Thomason, Dr.

self Retired

North Zulch, TX

I support this bill, HB 957. Though suppressors do not 'silence' a firearm, it does decrease the noise signature to be less damaging to hearing. I own a suppressor and it increases safety by allowing me to not use hearing protection while trying to control feral pigs at night. Hearing protection decreases ability to orient one's self to surrounding activity which is particularly difficult at night. It is certainly much more courteous to neighbors. I particularly like the provision to allow manufacture and ownership of suppressors remaining in Texas without federal tax stamp and delay. The one I purchased 2 years ago not only required \$200 to the federal government but also a 14 month wait for a federal employee to push a few computer keys. Please move this bill forward.

Thank you

Justin Marshall

Self

Cypress, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors help protect hearing significantly and countries with stricter gun laws respect their citizen's ability to protect their hearing more so than the US. Suppressors are not silent like the movies and will not assist criminals in crime however they will help protect one of the most important senses of Texas citizens. The current \$200 federal tax stamp and year

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long wait puts undo restriction to access of one of the greatest hearing protection tools available. There is no justification of any law or restriction on such tools. The NFA is unconstitutional and an infringement on the right this country was born out of.

Joseph Dinkins

self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

- Suppressors prevent hearing loss.
- Suppressors reduce noise pollution.
- The bill will allow entrepreneurs to create Texas jobs.

Jeremy Hersom, Mr

Self

Anna, TX

I support HB 957. I am asking for your support as well.

Have you ever had a dealing with the federal government? They aren't efficient in any way. When purchasing a suppressor it can take months to years! There should be no reason for the red tape involved with protecting my hearing. As an avid hunter and sport shooter suppressors offer a great deal of protection. I can wear ear plugs when I shoot, but hunting requires me to listen, and it's hard to do that with ear plugs.

There are also misconceptions surrounding suppressors. Thanks to Hollywood, some people think it silences the sounds of gunfire making guns more deadly. This is simply not true! It reduces the sounds to an acceptable level, but it is still loud.

Please offer your support of HB957!

Zoila Vega-marchena, Dr

Self, engineer

Austin, TX

I'm against this bill because due to current tyrannical federal government, we need to separate from federal regulations, have our own state of Texas regulations not tied to federal. Allow made in Texas suppressors.

Justin Smith

Self

Aurora, TX

I support this bill as suppressors are important to protecting the hearing of shooters. Unlike what is shown in the movies, suppressors do not make firearms completely silent, but do reduce the likelihood that they will permanently damage one's hearing. This bill also encourages persons to purchase Made in Texas, which will help the local economy.

Ryan Schall

Self

katy, TX

I support this bill,

There is no reasonable example we cant own or manufacture a suppressor.

Plenty of less gun friendly countries REQUIRE such items for the safety of the gun owner and those around, these do not silence

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a weapon but make it hearing safe.

The law in place is just a money grab for the federal government. They have already proven they are incapable of properly handling funds efficiently and successfully.

This bill just ensure the hearing safety for young and old shooters alike. When i was in the marines we used suppressors sparingly and i now suffer do to the shooting.

By allowing TEXANS to make and sell suppressors to other law abiding TEXANS you are ensuring safety and economic profit for the state.

I dont see how there could be any other reason to take this money away from the federal government and help Texas flourish even more.

Thank you for your time and stay healthy and safe,

Ryan M. Schall

USMC 0341

Chris Corriveau

self

Driftwood, TX

I support this bill for these reasons:

- A suppressor helps stop sound pollution and also creates a healthier environment!

- It will make a firearm sound just under the hazard limit, reducing the risk of permanent hearing damage. The CDC even recommends use of a suppressor.

- Shooting becomes more enjoyable and safer with a suppressor. A suppressor reduces recoil, making a gun easier to control, and thus, safer.

- "Made in Texas" will be a big economic impact and bring more manufacturing to Texas. This will produce more jobs and opportunities for Texans.

Steve Do

Self UPS Preloader

League City, TX

I support this bill because the ill act of a few should not affect the whole population. Suppressors also can reduce hearing damage, as you may know some hearing protection is actually not adequate to fully protect one's hearing from a firearm report for extended periods of time. A suppressor is also an accessory incapable of firing a projectile and still needs a host. I do not see the point of federal regulation when it needs an actual firearm, first, which is already regulated, to function as it was designed.

Thomas Parsons

Self/Physician

LUBBOCK, TX

I support the repeal of Texas law banning sound suppressors without federal tax stamps. "Made in Texas" suppressors would stimulate the economy for the manufacture of these devices. Sound suppressors are a valuable asset to hunters wishing to preserve their hearing, damage to which is largely irreversible. Suppressors are not true "silencers" and only mitigate the sound of a firearm discharging (despite how they are portrayed in the media)and so are not likely to be used in any criminal activity. Thank you for your consideration.

Lawrence Castillo

Myself and all my fellow Texans

Hockley, TX

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I support this bill.

There are three main reasons why sportsmen and hunters should be allowed to use suppressors in Texas-

1. The prevention of permanent hearing loss from firearm discharge.
2. Suppressors will make you more aware of your surrounds by eliminating ear plugs, increasing safety for all.
3. Suppressors are not used by criminals as they increase a firearms weight and size.

These reasons are reasonable enough to allow suppressors to be built and used within Texas state limits. Any and all manufacturing in Texas for the public is always a success for Texas and it's Citizens.

Lawrence Castillo

(832) 588-3379

"God Bless Texas"

Robert Hadfield

Self

Anna, TX

Suppressors are an important aid in protecting hearing and regulation under the NFA is misguided. Suppressors are very rarely used in crimes and can easily be improvised from household products if criminals wanted to use them. Removing regulation of suppressors provides a legal means of hunters and shooters to protect their hearing without restrictive hearing protection, which poses a risk as they cannot easily hear their surroundings. Though some forms of microphone assisted hearing protection devices exist, batteries die. Additionally suppressors add to the overall length and weight of a firearm making it more difficult to conceal in a crime, leading to disadvantage to criminals. Suppressors are used by law abiding citizens every day to help protect their hearing.

John Shaw

self/ insurance

Wylie, TX

I support this. Prevent hearing damage from firearms

Richard McCormick

Self

DENTON, TX

I am strongly in support of this bill. I am a US Navy Veteran and suffer with Tinnitus from working around Steam Driven Turbines. I do everything I can to prevent my Tinnitus from getting worse. I view Firearm Suppressors as a safety item. Any device which reduces the sound of a firearm discharge will help protect the hearing of all in proximity to that firearm.

Zakare Waddell

Self/Production Manager

Bonham, TX

I support this bill. This bill would allow Texans not only to ignore a Federal infringement on our freedoms of private purchase and ownership of property, nor only and infringement on our right to keep and bear arms, but it would allow Texas to protect their hearing. It would also reduce noise pollution across the state. Many anti-gun countries in Europe require that a suppressor be used when hunting, and there is no reason for us to restrict, or allow the Feds to restrict, the ownership of a metal tube that can protect one of our 6 senses, one that once lost is gone forever. Please, pass this bill as part of our prioritized legislative efforts to end infringements upon the rights of the people.

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Bob Armstrong

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I support this bill because a suppressor would enhance my ability to shoot more feral hogs, slow my hearing loss, and diminish frightening other wild game animals in close proximity. And I don't believe that the federal government should intrude on my legal means and methods of hunting.

Jacob Ford

Self

Dayton, TX

Allowing suppressors without the long, expensive, and arduous task of getting the tax stamp would greatly assist those with disabilities who find it difficult to participate in sport shooting or hunting as they are not comfortably able to wear hearing protection. Most people agree it is a very difficult and an unnecessary 3 ringed circus for legal and law abiding citizens to acquire one. Suppressors greatly help eliminate noise pollution as well as greatly eliminates hearing damage and allowing easier access for law abiding citizens to acquire these devices would solidify that fact.

Derrick Reeves

Self

Killeen, TX

I support this bill Because It increases public safety by making it easier to obtain a suppressor which will drop the report of a fire arm to a hearing safe level. It will mean that we will not have to wait of the government for an arbitrary amount of time for them to decide if we are allowed to have this accessory. Finally it would promote the Gun industry in Texas by encouraging residents to buy suppressors made in the state as well as encourage manufacturers to move production here since there will be less red tape to the manufacture and sell of a suppressor.

Jacob Hogue

Self

Longview, TX

I support HB957 for the following reasons:

1. The NFA is an infringement on Texan's right to keep and bear arms and is unconstitutional.
2. Requiring a \$200 tax stamp to own a firearm (or in this case firearm accessory) is converting a liberty to license and charging a fee for it.

Tim Ingle

self, engineer

Austin, TX

I am in full support of this bill! There never was a legitimate reason for the NFA to restrict suppressors/silencers in the first places. Suppressors help protect our hearing, and make it easier and safer to control a firearm. Restricting suppressors is unconstitutional, and is just an excuse for the federal government to put law-abiding gun owners on a registry while the criminals skedaddle away with whatever they want.

Again, I support HB 957, and look forward to enjoying my freedoms as a Texan! Thank you!

Daniel Salinas

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Self/Equipment Operator Production

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support this bill because years of hard work has left my hearing sensitive, and suppressed fire helps significantly. I also have land where I am able to shoot but choose not to because I have an older couple the next ranch over and I do not want to alarm or scare those kind people. Being able to outfit my favorite firearms with Texas suppressors would allow me to enjoy my land for target practice for competition without being a bother. I will also be able to hunt more affective on my hunting property. Please support this bill to help law abiding Texas gun owners continue to enjoy our Second Amendment to the fullest thank you.

Todd Dillon

Self

Coldspring, TX

I highly encourage the House State Affairs to support this bill. Suppressors could be a growth industry for the State, protect the hearing of our next generation of marksmen and hunters and do not pose a significant danger to public as to require registration under the NFA. As a sports marksman, a hunter and a member of law enforcement, I believe all the above to be true. Suppressors are currently a fantastic opportunity for Texas to seal as a cottage industry. Combined with Texas' already alluring corporate benefits, I believe passage of HB 957 would draw many manufacturers with concomitant jobs for Texans. Further, suppressors would prevent or limit damage to our next generation of hunters and marksmen by preventing the cumulative damage to their hearing. Finally, suppressors are rarely, if ever, used in any type of assaultive offense. In my years of service as a prosecutor in multiple counties (including both urban and rural), I've yet to come across a suppressor being used in an assaultive offense. Most of the opposition's concern can be nullified given a factual understanding of what suppressors actually do. They do not make a shot silent as portrayed in media. A good suppressor can reduce the report of a rifle to 130 decibels. Noises such as a chainsaw, thunder or a blowtorch register at roughly 120 decibels. A full-afterburner takeoff by a F/A-18 Superhornet at 50 feet comes in at around 140 decibels. Pearl-clutching gun control advocates will state the danger of such legislation; please point them to the fact that in one of their gun control utopias, the United Kingdom, it is regularly prohibited to hunt WITHOUT a suppressor.

Jeff Tormey

Self- Attorney

Amarillo, TX

I strongly support this bill. Firearms suppressors are gaining in popularity all the time with Texas Sportsman. They are an excellent way to introduce new shooters to the sport lessening the loud report of firearms. They spook game less in the field. They are more respectful of neighbors in that they keep noise at a much lower level- in Europe, they are often mandatory. Federal regulation of these devices adds a considerable layer of expense and difficulty to ownership and Texas should follow the lead of other states that have gone this route in terms of regulating them.

Michael Jones

Self

LEWISVILLE, TX

This bill is important, because it aims to reverse the overreaching federal firearms regulations that are outdated. Suppressors do not silence the report of a gunshot. They do, however, make the sound level safe in most cases without the need for hearing protection. Many people hunt without any kind of hearing protection, and in doing so, damage their hearing. Treating a suppressor like they are any other firearm, (subject to a NICS background check) will help many Texans protect their hearing while in the field.

Michael Sisson

Self - Electrical Engineer

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Arlington, TX

I support this bill. Currently, to own a suppressor, one must comply with an onerous set of Federal rules and regulations that include a \$200 tax stamp and a lengthy wait; sometimes over a year. The State of Texas criminalizes owning a suppressor outside of Federal regulations.

As a frequent shooter, a suppressor would help reduce my risk of permanent hearing damage. In fact, the CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health. In actuality, it's more dangerous NOT to use a suppressor than to use one. And a suppressor makes shooting less of a nuisance for the surrounding area. (Some countries consider it rude to shoot WITHOUT a suppressor.) A suppressor reduces recoil, making a gun easier to control, and thus, safer. Children, weaker adults, and those with hearing complications find it easier to shoot using a suppressor.

In spite of what is portrayed in the movies, a suppressor does not "silence" a gun. Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage. With a suppressor, a gunshot is mid-130's decibels (depending on location, equipment, ammunition). The sound of suppressed gunfire is still loud enough that many people still wear hearing protection. (The occupational hazard limit is 140 decibels.) A suppressor doesn't lend itself to criminal activity. It makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable and only reduces the sound 30 decibels.

Justin Greiss

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill because it is the proper role of government as outlined in the Constitution. Federalism is a founding principle of this country and it is critical Texas continues to lead on state sovereignty issues.

Robert Kurth, Mr

Self

Lufkin, TX

I support this bill because a) a suppressor is NOT a firearm, so the Federal government usurped this from the People, and b) Suppressors aid in the preservation of the participant in the shooting sports.

Brogan Siquefield

Self - Engineer

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

1. It helps to reduce the hearing impairment that sporting games/hunting have on the shooter.
2. It helps to reduce the amount of sound-pollution that is heard around gun ranges, or private property..
3. It helps to reduce the amount of paperwork, and by extension the Federal Government's time and material in handling each individual's application.

Harrison Kone

Self

Whitewright, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons: 1. Suppressors are considered armament which falls under the protections of the Second Amendment; therefore, there should be no infringement on our ability to own and employ this technology. 2. The ownership and employment of suppressors/silencers is crucial to protecting the hearing of those using firearms, which includes

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children who are hunting, learning to shoot, or (God forbid) are placed in a position to defend their family and home. 3. Suppressor use is an act of being polite to neighbors and one's community. 4. Using suppressors/silencers during self-defense creates a safer environment for those forced to protect themselves by use of deadly force with a firearm by protecting hearing so that they can communicate with family members to make sure everyone is okay/assess further threats and to hear and comply with police commands upon their arrival to avoid tragic misunderstandings. 5. Suppressors are legal and unregulated in a variety of other countries where it is considered courteous to one's neighbors and community. These countries do not have the same firearm and self-defense protections that we enjoy here in the US, and it is shameful that we have allowed our citizens' rights to be so infringed. 6. Suppressor usage while hunting reduces the sound disturbance of an area which allows the property to be groomed well for future hunting so that generations can enjoy plentiful game and healthy, wild meat. Please see that this bill is brought to the floor, passed, and made into law in order that we might see a reduction in an overreaching federal government and a return to strong states' rights. Texans deserve to be governed by laws with which they agree, not be subject to immoral laws with which they don't.

Jack Gibson, Mr.

Self

Graham, TX

I urge incumbents to vote for the passage of this bill, which is long overdue. Sound suppressors have become a very beneficial adjunct to both shooting and non-shooting groups by keeping damaging noise levels under control making use of a firearm more pleasant, especially in training environments and less of an irritant to the non-shooting public.

Tanner Holland

Self, Insurance Agent

Beaumont, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors are first and foremost a safety device that protect lawful gun owners hearing. The entire NFA is an unconstitutional act but suppressors above all else should not be regulated in the fashion they currently are. Something used as a literal safety device for the firearm owners health and those around them should not by any means be regulated with a tax and registry. Texans should be allowed to take their safety into their own hands and manufacture, sell, and possess suppressors made in Texas without a federal tax stamp.

Brian Gleason

self

Pflugerville, TX

I support this bill and it should be one of the priorities, next to Constitutional Carry, of this legislative session. Suppressors do not "silence" a firearm, they dampen the the sound to a tolerable level for the ear. This is a safety issue, not a criminal one.

Brent Morrow

self, Student

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Suppressors are not dangerous. They will help us preserve our hearing when hunting or even just when going to the range. They do not "Silence" a gun shot, they just make it more quiet and less damaging to your hearing. Thank you.

Grant carr

self

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flowermound, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors are a benefit for recreational and defensive shooting. The tax stamp and waiting period are an unnecessary burden placed on law abiding citizens by an over reaching government. Suppressors are misunderstood and do not completely silence firearms as Hollywood would have people believe.

Nathan Cosme

Self

Keene, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons.

- 1: Suppressors are nothing more than an accessory.
- 2: Suppressors DO NOT make any firearm more lethal.
- 3: Regulation of suppressors is an infringement on the rights of the individual.
- 4: Suppressors when used in a defensive manner for home defense help mitigate the harmful effects of muzzle blast in a confined area.
- 5: The wide proliferation of suppressors that would come from passing this bill would help stimulate the Texas economy a great deal.

James Lowry II, Mr.

Self, Maintenance & transport logistics specialist

Douglasville, TX

I strongly support this bill due to personal hearing loss directly related to this issue. To my knowledge, there is no use of this equipment in criminal activities in general, nor is there any indication that there will be. Federal regulations in this area are for no other reason then to 'soak' the taxpayer and contribute Nothing to public safety.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Good day

STEPHEN HEIMBECKER

GOA/Self

SAN ANGELO, TX

I support this bill because:

1. A suppressor on a firearms is like a muffler on a car.
2. There is no good reason for the Federal Government to be involved in this at all; we need more common sense.
3. My children's hearing/safety is important and suppressors protect them. Who in good conscience would appose hearing protection?

Thank you!

Nathan Tanwongprasert

Self

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Fort Worth, TX

I fully support this bill, as the federal mandate on suppressor regulation is antiquated and in my opinion, unconstitutional. This is a step in the right direction. Suppressors are fairly commonplace amongst firearm owners in Europe, and in some instances, a requirement due to reducing noise pollution that would disturb wildlife or nearby citizens. These devices also help prevent hearing loss. The use of suppressors in multimedia is pure Hollywood fiction, as suppressed firearms are still noticeably loud. The use of suppressors and easing the process of civilian ownership is both beneficial to the citizen, his or her neighbors, and will cause minimal risk to the general population. The omission of the federal tax stamp requirement ensures that all Texans that are not legally prohibited would be afforded the same right to own and use these devices, taking away the paywall keeping lower income citizens from practicing their rights.

Timothy Hernandez

Self, Information Technology

Itasca, TX

I support this bill.

As a Texas gun owner, I support this bill for several reasons. I frequently use firearms for target practice and recreation on my own property in a rural area. After learning that some of my neighbors down the road were war veterans and suffered from PTSD, I decided that I should invest in suppressors to muffle some of the sound that my firearms create. After researching the laws, I was shocked to learn that in Europe, suppressors are commonplace and easy to obtain. This is because it is essentially a muffler that protects the hearing of the shooter and reduces noise pollution. With some of the strictest gun laws in the world, Europeans recognize that the suppressor is a useful tool that is a huge benefit to the general public.

The process for getting the NFA tax stamp was arduous and took nearly a year to complete. I was disappointed that purchasing a muffler to protect my hearing and reduce noise for my neighbors was such a difficult process. The general public has based its views of what a suppressor actually is from Hollywood movies and cheap crime novels. In reality, suppressors are an important tool for hearing protection and noise reduction. Thank you for your time, and please support HB 957.

Chad Torres

self

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I strongly support this bill. Suppressors do not silence firearms, but do help to preserve shooters hearing, lessen the noise to bystanders, and make rifles in particular more accurate by lessening felt recoil. In Europe, suppressors are considered mandatory in many places so as not to disturb other people, and are an 'over the counter' item. This bill removes the expensive tax fee and long wait for each suppressor that accompanies every purchase, thus making them accessible to lower income hunters and shooters. And the stipulations of suppressor manufacture and ownership under this bill are 100% within a state's right under the 10th amendment. So I encourage swift passage of this bill. Thank you.

Samuel Finley

Self

Spring Branch, TX

I support this bill.

Jeff Cheek

Self

El Laos, TX

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I support this bill and advise Texas legislature to make this Texas law

1) the regulation of suppressors for firearms creates obstacles for people to supply their own hearing protection for themselves and those around them when using firearms. In some countries it is MANDATORY to use silencers when hunting to protect the shooters, those in the area and to not disturb wildlife. This is basic PPE that can be used with firearms to prevent hearing loss and current regulations prevent it's easy employment.

2) the NFA which the regulation of suppressors fall under is itself a violation of the second amendment. The State is Texas and the legislature have an obligation to protect its citizens constitutional rights

3) Texans have a right to their personal safety and if states like Colorado, Washington and others want to make laws that support the violation of federal laws (marijuana use laws), then the Texas legislature should be bold enough to allow for Texans to provide for there own safety under the protection of state law, even though it may no comply with federal laws. The federal government has set a precedent that states can set their own laws, that are different from federal laws, and have no issues doing so, as shown by the examples set in Colorado, Washington as. Other states.

Delbert Boyer

Texans

Texline, TX

I support passing this bill because...

1. Never should have been in NFA. No one can say why it was except possibly to keep hungry poor people from poaching in the Depression.
2. Continuing resistance to suppressors is based on a false Hollywood narrative and complete ignorance of the subject matter.
3. Safety. Loud noise is bad for the hearing.
4. To basically thumb the nose at the Federal government. The buffoons in office now know zero about guns. Their entire gun control plan does ZERO to reduce gun violence.

Eugene Lux

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

This is a good bill. It will help us with damaged hearing

victoria hedley

none

Wimberley, TX

we do not need the corrupt feds messing with texas. for me suppressors are for protecting our hearing

Ethan Hall

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly support this bill!

1) Suppressors are simple metal tubes, very similar to miniaturized auto mufflers, and are not firearms or components of a firearm. They are highly beneficial to all life and the environment, and should be no more regulated than auto mufflers are. In fact, suppressor use should be strongly encouraged as in some other countries.

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2) Suppressors are essential to auditory health, especially for use indoors where sound pressures are much higher and many defensive firearm uses occur. Hearing protection during critical defense incidents has potential life or death consequences for the defender.

3) Suppressors are used - according to all available data - almost exclusively for lawful purposes, and extremely rarely used during nefarious activities.

Scott Goedde

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB957. It promotes safety by reducing the sound of firearms. It often improves precision of firearms. Suppressors minimize undesirable noise for others in the area. Suppressors can reduce recoil & improve comfort of person shooting the gun.

Hollywood portrays these as stealthy silencers used by spies & evil-doers, but that - like most drama from Hollywood - is not factual. Firearms with suppression are still loud. This addition to a firearm should not be controlled/taxed/discouraged. Those opposed to this freedom do so in sharp contrast to the guidance of our founding fathers. Don't let our freedom be suppressed.

Daniel Janvrin

Self - petrochemical engineer

Borger, TX

I support this bill because it prevents federal overreach into what should be a common safety device for hunters and recreational shooters. Noise suppressors are not like Hollywood depicts, and are rarely used in crimes. This bill would allow law-abiding Texans more freedom to protect their hearing while engaging in activities they enjoy.

Daniel Elizardo

Self Billing and coding Specialist

Eagle Pass, TX

I support This bill and desire it to become law.

Suppressors should not even be on the NFA list, being that they do not do anything other than protect the user and those around them from suffering temporary and even permanent hearing loss. They are easy to manufacture and do not do anything to add to lethality of a weapon. They do not silence a gun, they merely make the report in most cases barely hearing safe. This would allow for clearer communications and a safer shooting environment for those who love to hunt and practice the shooting sports. In a self defense situation inside your home in an enclosed environment it would allow you to clearly issue commands and hear the response from your loved ones in a stressful situation. Finally to prevent ruining your children's hearing for life should you find yourself needing to use deadly force upon an intruder looking to do your family harm.

I Thank You for reading my thoughts on this in its entirety.

Respectfully,

Daniel Elizardo Jr.

A Proud Native Born Texas Citizen!

Rhonda Torres

Self

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New Braunfels, TX

I support this Bill.

RICHARD THORNE

self, retired vet and former federal agent.

DELEON, TX

I support this bill. There are many reasons for supporting this bill but one stands above all the rest; "SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED", enough said!

John Spinuzzi

self

Timpson, TX

I support this bill.

I am a lifelong citizen of Texas and a Texas Volunteer Hunter Safety Instructor. As such I now have tinnitus from years of loud noises. I use and promote the use of ear and eye protection, but the use of suppressors would be of great help in protecting the hearing of not only those using firearms, but also of those nearby.

They would also make the lawful use of firearms less of a annoyance to those on nearby properties when someone is doing target practice, instruction, or hunting.

Suppressors have been legal and readily available in Europe for many years without there being a problem, so why can't Texans enjoy sound reduction, also?

Thanks for your time.

Arthur Webb

Myself

Garwood, TX

I support this bill

Suppressor use is not only legal, but mandatory in some countries with more restrictive firearms laws than the US

Daniel Watson

Self. Retired airline pilot.

Jacksonville, TX

I support this bill

Suppressors protect hearing.

Suppressors reduce overall noise levels produced by shooting activity.

Suppressors are REQUIRED EQUIPMENT for shooting sports in many places around the world. Regulating & restricting them here makes no sense.

John LaMarr, Mr.

Gun Owners of America

Plano, TX

I support this Bill because suppressors simply function as mufflers to reduce sound (noise) from firearms. Law abiding citizens should be allowed to manufacture, sell and own suppressors for hearing protection and to not disturb others and nature.

Suppressors add to the peace, tranquility and joy of shooting sports. Safety is enhanced when noise is reduced and natural sounds

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are able to be heard.

Jeremy Kowis

Self

Katy, TX

This is a bill that needs to pass. Suppressors just help everyone from having hearing damage later in life. This is not a weapon or something where gun owners are suddenly assassins. This just reduces the volume of the noise, it does not make it a silent gun. People still need to wear hearing protection, but it's just better for the public as a whole as well. This shouldn't be under the NFA as in England of all places require them on their weapons. If England requires and doesn't think it makes guns more dangerous then why do we have to pay a \$200 tax stamp for?

Keithjuju Krause

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Suppressors reduce hearing loss and damage to individuals in close proximity to the firearm.
2. Likewise, suppressors reduce noise coming from shooting ranges, making them more friendly to neighbors.
3. Suppressors are legal in other countries as they are recognized for the above benefits.
4. There is an unfounded belief that they make the firearm silent. False, the dB level is reduced but the shot is still very audible.
5. The national regulation by the BATFE, is onerous.

Thank you for considering my input, and I encourage each to obtain a demonstration of a suppressor.

Robert Cookson

Self

Missouri City, TX

This will help in hunting so we don't get or increase the tinnitus in our brain.

William Adcox

Self/pilot

Huffman, TX

I support this Bill. Those of us who enjoy the shooting sports understand that a suppressor doesn't make a gun totally silent. That's all Hollywood. Suppressors make guns more comfortable to shoot and they also make it more comfortable to be around other shooters while at the shooting range. We just want to keep the hearing we have left.

Chris Freeman

Self/Shipping

Jefferson, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

It repeals TX criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations. (TX Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).)

It establishes a class of "Made in Texas" suppressors that must be manufactured in Texas from Texas-made parts, must stay in

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Texas, and are exempt from Federal regulation.

It give a path to secure a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of this law before someone manufactures “Made in Texas” suppressors.

Suppressors are safety devices that should not be regulated.

Jonathan Rhys

Self

Burleson, TX

I support this bill because statistics show that suppressors are rarely used in crime despite what Hollywood depicts. Suppressors do not fully silence a firearm rather makes them more hearing safe for the sportsman and target shooting enthusiasts.

Rhonda Freeman

Self/Biller

Jefferson, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

It repeals TX criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations. (TX Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).)

It establishes a class of "Made in Texas" suppressors that must be manufactured in Texas from Texas-made parts, must stay in Texas, and are exempt from Federal regulation.

It give a path to secure a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of this law before someone manufactures “Made in Texas” suppressors.

Suppressors are safety devices that should not be regulated.

Gentry Perry

Self

Katy, TX

I support this bill.

Michael Murphy, Cpt

The People of the Constitution

Humble, TX

A suppressor is a safety device use to reduce the noise level of a discharging fire arm. Gross Federal over reach unconstitutionally regulated and profited from a device that protects hearing. You don't need a Federal stamp for safety glasses or ear plugs. Texans do NOT need a Federal stamp to protect their hearing. Do your job, protect us FROM the out of control Federal Government. Pass HB 597.

Samuel Perkins

Self

Odessa, TX

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I support this bill since it repeals the Texas ban on owning suppressors that don't have a Federal tax stamp and allows Texans to manufacture, sell, and own a "Made in Texas" suppressor that is not subject to Federal regulations. First there is no data that shows Criminals use suppressors while committing any crime. Second, suppressors don't "Silence" gun shots as shown in the fantasy world of movies and TV and last, the noise reduction helps reduce damaging noise to hunters and shooters ears while enjoying their sport in the great outdoors of Texas. These are the three (3) main reasons I support HB 957 and I hope you will take my position to support this Bill.

Mark Thuesen

Self - OTC drug manufacturer

CONROE, TX

I support this bill as it will reduce the cumbersome and lengthy transfer delays that are purely political at the federal level. Everyone who buys a NFA item (full auto, suppressor, etc.) must wait for the BATFE to approve the transfer before taking possession of the suppressor. Under federal Republican administrations, the transfer approval typically takes 90 days to 6 months. Under federal Democrat administrations, the transfer approval typically takes 1 to 3 years; it takes so long that you forget you even bought the suppressor by the time your are approved.

Chad Stazan

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

I support this bill:

1. The restrictions or "bans" on suppressors, as is all gun control, is based on misinformation and deliberate, malicious deceit. These devices do not eliminate the sound or need for hearing protection, they merely make the sound more bearable. Suppressors do not "make the gun more deadly" (whatever that even means) or easier to commit crimes, they merely reduce the sound. In self-defense situations, which primarily take place in enclosed spaces (such as people's bedrooms, hallways, stores. etc), places where the noise is amplified; in such, a suppressor would greatly improve a person's ability to defend themselves for they won't be dealing with as much noise, allowing them to be more accurate, thus making things even safer for bystanders (not to mention protecting bystander hearing).

Despite the fact criminals don't obey laws, there have only been a handful of events over several decades where suppressors were used during a crime, including in places where suppressors are not regulated. The same can actually be said about firearms in general, especially when compared to all other violent crime, which all data shows that places with less gun control are safer, have less crime, are more peaceful, and are more pleasant places to live. It is not coincidence that violent crime increases where government control increases, where as all crime (especially violent crime) reduces with less government control, especially less gun control.

2. Suppressors protect people's hearing health of not just the owner/user, but those around them. Suppressors only slightly reduce the decibel level, which could be the difference between a temporary and permanent hearing damage. This decibel reduction is ever more important for self-defense where there is no time to don hearing protection and in enclosed spaces. Suppressors benefit the greater community by reducing the noise while not infringing on individual's rights, liberties, and freedoms, as is currently the case. This means that people can exercise their rights more freely while respecting their neighbors.

3. In many countries they are called "courtesy devices" and sold as package deals with the firearms. Some of which, suppressors are either not regulated or regulated only in passing, including some localities going as far as requiring a suppressor in certain cases.

4. The restriction/ban on suppressors, as is all gun control, is a violation of individual's rights, liberties, and freedoms as well as the US Constitution (thus rendering any and all gun control null and void, including any treaty that would in effect be an act of gun control, thus making enforcement of such a criminal act). The act of infringing on an individual's rights is a crime, placing and enforcing gun control is a crime against humanity.

John Wallace
Self Operations Manager
Midlothian, TX

I Support This Bill. Suppressors simply preserve the hearing of the shooter as well as any one in the area near the shooter when the firearm is fired. Recently I have had the opportunity to fire some suppressed weapons with my wife. We always wear hearing protection but she is still uncomfortable with the loud sound when shooting. She is 51 years old and has been shooting infrequently for decades but she was noticeably more comfortable and accurate when firing the suppressed firearms. She was leery of suppressors as "dangerous" in the past but after shooting with them she is a proponent. In addition a suppressor is not a firearm so I believe it should not and should never have been governed by the National Firearms Act

Jason Wilkins
Self
Porter, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors do NOT make firearms silent like you see in movies and television. They DO reduce the sound somewhat so that shooting firearms in places where it is legally allowed does not disturb surrounding property owners. They also allow the shooter to fire there weapons with less of a chance that they will damage there hearing.

Gregory Clayton
Self
San Marcos, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors are not some magical item that makes guns silent. They do however, reduce the sound to where you aren't going deaf. All my years in the Marines gave me a bad enough case of tinnitus as it is. How about passing this bill so I can shoot without potentially making it worse. And suppressors aren't going to increase crime. They make a gun too hard to conceal. And it looks like this bill will create some "Made in Texas" jobs. This bill is a win win for everyone.

Timothy Moore
People of Texas
Burleson, TX

I support this bill.

The federal government is overstepping the boundaries of the 2nd Amendment by regulating suppressors, which a very rarely used in crime and do not provide a criminal with any advantage. Suppressors offer are a huge benefit to hunters and sport shooters. They protect hearing from major damage when firing large caliber firearms, although it is still recommended to wear hearing protection. Suppressors offer Texans the opportunity to defend themselves, their families, and their properties without major hearing damage caused by discharging unsuppressed firearms indoors without proper hearing protection.

Glen Pickard
Self
Lufkin, TX

Please help to see this Bill become a law.

Lance Black

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Self

Franklin, TX

I support the bill.

- 1) Firearm suppressors are a safety device to protect from precious hearing loss while in the proximity of firearms being discharged whether in self defense, hunting, or sport shooting with family and friends.
- 2) Taxation and laws that prohibit or restrict the freedom of access without burdensome expense, do harm to humans for no just cause.
- 3) Animals as well as people are negatively affected from sound, causing likely hearing loss, often dogs that are with us suffer most.
- 4) Texas, our state, should stand on the side of what is best for Texans and those that live here not Washington, D.C, and it's bureaucrats.

Roy Drewett

Self

Tyler, TX

I support this bill. The federal government has made it very difficult for citizens to obtain a firearm suppressor. Suppressors help mitigate hearing loss and cut down on noise pollution. They are extremely practical for hunting and sport shooting. Suppressors make shooting firearms safer for all involved.

DAVID BROWN

Hunters/Self

LIBERTY HILL, TX

I support this bill. I am 69 and have had hearing problems for many years.. I hunt and enjoy taking my grandkids hunting. Suppressors help save hearing. They should not be illegal or controlled. There is plenty of evidence that suppressors are seldom used in crime so why should they be illegal?

Matthew Ontiveros

Self, airport operations

Grand Prairie, TX

I support bill 957, suppressors reduce noise and prevent damage to shooters ears.

Carlo Carrion

Self

Cedar Creek, TX

As a law abiding citizen I own suppressors and would love the bill for suppressors to pass

Thank you for your time and effort's

John Conner

Self/Adjunct professor

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Houston, TX

Honorable Committee:

I support this bill. A suppressor doesn't lend itself to criminal activity — it makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable, and only reduces the sound 30 decibels. Who uses a suppressor? Those who shoot guns and don't want permanent hearing damage.

When hunting: a suppressor makes it easier to communicate with those around you (no ear muffs)

A suppressor makes shooting less of a nuisance for the surrounding area. Some countries consider it rude to shoot WITHOUT a suppressor.
suppressor.

Sincerely,
John

Raemond Winter

Self

Burleson, TX

I support this bill because I believe all gun laws are infringement of are basic inalienable rights as Americans. Also these items are an accessory that do nothing to the fire arms performance other the quieting the noise produced during firing

Thomas Gordon

Self

Temple, TX

I my name is Thomas Gordon
I support HB 957 by Oliverson
Thank you, Thomas

Martha Piedra

Self/Social worker

Houston, TX

Dear Committee Members:

I support this bill. The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health.

It's more dangerous NOT to use a suppressor than to use one. Suppressors reduce recoil, making a gun easier to control, and thus, safer.

Children, weaker adults, and those with hearing complications find it easier to shoot using a suppressor.

Thanks,
Martha

Adam Smok

Self

Weatherford, TX

I believe regulations on firearms is infringement to our 2nd amendment. Take one thing, the gun grabbers go for another one. Suppression of a firearm is that of a muffler to a car, no more no less. Havin the ability to suppress the noise with added ear

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guards leaves for a better and more accurate shooting experience, seeing as the shooter isn't bracing for the sound. This is not the movies, we do not crawl around taking out hits from the mob, besides given proof criminals never follow laws and always find the means.

Mark Randall, Mr

Self

Spring, TX

I support this bill

Alan Niederlitz

Self, retail hunting and fishing sales

Houston, TX

I am TOTALLY IN FAVOR of hb 957. I support this bill to protect my hearing, it advances liberty, it also doesnt REQUIRE me to pay the federal govt to be FREE to make my own choice AND it is good sense. I do NOT believe any suppressor has been used in a crime since they become very very popular... thanks, Alan Niederlitz. I also support constitutional carry...

Marty Ketelaar

Self

Kingwood, TX

I support this bill; suppressors are important in protecting hearing while participating in firearms practice as recommended by the CDC. Suppressors also increase safety-there is less recoil using a suppressor, thereby increasing safety. Additionally, suppressors make it easier to communicate with others in your hunting party. Also, using a suppressor does not increase criminal activity--a suppressor makes a firearm longer and heavier, therefore less concealable. I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of this bill.

Trevor Fish

Self Lead Fuel Clerk

Allen, TX

I Support this bill. Suppressors also known as Silencers are used for reducing the report of a gunshot to help limit the damage to the hearing of the person operating the firearm. It is the exact same technology that is used in the muffler of your car. In fact the muffler and Silencer where designed and patented by the same person at the same time. So it is in my opinion rather arbitrary that we mandate the same device on our cars but ban them from our firearms. In addition Suppressors are not used in crime, they are nearly exclusively used by law abiding citizens who wish to protect their hearing while they train to protect their families. Making Suppressors more easily accessible to law abiding Texans would also have the added benefit of making gun ranges less noisy for their neighbors. Thus making firearms training less obtrusive to those choosing not to participate in the use of firearms.

Michael Carter

Self

ABILENE, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons.

Suppressors allow shooting to be Hearing Safe. I personally have hearing loss secondary to gunfire.

Suppressors increase shooting enjoyment, for shooters and spectators alike.

Shooting with suppressors is more accurate. By decreasing " flinch" and concussion.

Absurdly long wait times, and fees by the Federal government are ridiculous.

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Carlos Cuevas

self

Highland Village, TX

I support this bill for three reasons. First, and most important, my hearing was severely damaged from working on military jets for 21 years. While I have always and continue to wear hearing protection, I do not want to risk losing any more while I enjoy my hobby when there is equipment out there that can reduce the noise exposure for myself and those around me. Second, the Federal \$200 tax stamp and incredibly long waiting period are absolutely ridiculous and unnecessary for any law-abiding citizen. Finally, there is no reason to associate suppressors with criminal activity and I hate to think that such a baseless stigma exists. Let Texas lead the way.

Joshua Smetzer

Self

Rosharon, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Suppressors will reduce hearing loss and damage to the ears of shooters and hunters.
2. Suppressors will improve the hunting experience as the hunter can hear his surroundings without causing damage to his or her ears when game is harvested.
3. Suppressors do not make a firearm discharge silent, they also increase overall length, so they will be no adverse impact on crime.
4. Many other countries require or encourage the use of suppressors while hunting.

Michael McGuire

Self

Hurst, TX

I support this bill for several reasons. Firstly, the Penal Code definition is incorrect when referring to suppressors as "silencers". The devices do not 'silence' the report of a firearm, it simply lessens the impact of the sound. It is safer for our ears and will help prevent hearing loss related to gunfire. I also believe the CDC recommends the use of a suppressor for health reasons.

A suppressor does not lead to criminal activity; it makes the firearm more bulky, long, and less-concealable.

Having a suppressor installed helps reduce the recoil of a firearm making it safer and easier to control.

R Darling

self

Harker Heights, TX

I urge you to support earliest passage of HB957 bill because: 1) suppressors don't hurt anyone; 2) suppressors are involved in far less than 0.1% of gun crimes; 3) shooters using even the best suppressors still use extra hearing protection; 4) wide spread use of suppressors could make public shooting ranges significantly more neighbor friendly; 5) the apparent quietness of suppressors as demonstrated on TV is absolutely over exaggerated.

Bobby Womble

self - CPA

Cleburne, TX

I support this bill

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1. They reduce hearing damage during practice. Guns are loud.
2. Allowing suppressor's will not increase crime.
3. Allowing suppressors' will greatly reduce the noise pollution to neighbors of target ranges.

Peter Stadigh

self

CRANDALL, TX

I support this bill. It would protect sport shooters' hearing both on the range and in the field. The availability would increase and cost would decrease for what is basically muffler for you firearm, much like the muffler on your car. Appreciate you consideration.

tyree white

self

temple, TX

Dear State Affairs of Texas Legislature,

I "support this Bill" because it will protect the hearing of the gun owner and will reduce the noise of all people in the surrounding area.

Thank You,

Tyree White.

Paul Gille

None

Iowa Park, TX

I support non tax stamp suppressors. This should not be an NFA item and should be encouraged the same as we encourage the use of mufflers on vehicles. These do not make the guns more deadly, more accurate or even without any sound at all, just less noisy. This also saves hearing and reduces noise for everyone.

Tim DePalma, Dr.

self

AUBREY, TX

I support this bill because

Suppressors do not silence guns.

- Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage.
- With a suppressor, a gunshot is mid-130's decibels (depending on location, equipment, ammunition).
- The sound of suppressed gunfire is still loud enough that many people still wear hearing protection.
- The occupational hazard limit is 140 decibels.

Suppressors are safety tools.

- A suppressor brings a firearm sound just under the hazard limit, reducing the risk of permanent hearing damage.
- The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible, to safeguard one's health. It is more dangerous NOT to use a suppressor than to use one.

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Suppressors benefit the community.

- A suppressor does not lend itself to criminal activity — it makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable, and only reduces the sound 30 decibels.
- Who uses a suppressor? Those who shoot guns and do not want permanent hearing damage.
- When hunting: a suppressor makes it easier to communicate with those around you (no earmuffs)
- A suppressor makes shooting less of a nuisance for the surrounding area. Some countries consider it rude to shoot WITHOUT a suppressor.
- A suppressor reduces recoil, making a gun easier to control, and thus, safer.
- Children, weaker adults, and those with hearing complications find it easier to shoot using a suppressor.

Please pass this bill.

Dr. Tim DePalma

Joe Lopez Jr

Self

Santa Fe, TX

I support this bill

Since I was 6 years old I have enjoy shooting, hunting, and target practicing. Throughout the years. I have lost earring in both ears. On automobiles you have a muffler to quiet the sound of the exhaust why can't we do the same for firearms without having to pay 200 tax stamp. I believe it's rude for your neighbors. Also there is no crime involving suppressors.

Kristin Browne

Self

Colorado City, TX

I support HB 957 because I want Texans to be able to freely manufacture, sell, and own suppressors without federal overreach. I want Texas to continue limiting the power of the federal government to regulate Texans' ability to arm ourselves.

William Morton, Mr.

Self/Retired

Burleson, TX

I support this Bill because:

1. As a veteran my hearing has been severely damaged and as a hunter every shot at a game animal continues to further damage my hearing.
2. For the average Texan the \$200.00 Federal Tax Stamp required by the NFA to own a sound suppressor is excessive and burdensome.
3. Signing this Bill into law should lead to increased employment as more Texas companies and gunsmiths add the manufacture of legal sound suppressors to their line of available products and services.
4. As more and more individuals and companies begin to produce sound suppressors, the price per unit should significantly decrease, making them affordable for the average individual.

Sincerely,

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W.E. Morton

Jeffrey Reins

Self

Canton, TX

I support this bill for several reasons, 1) Safety, it deadens the noise and is not dangerous to a persons hearing, 2) the second amendment says, "shall not be infringed" and 3) it will not be as disturbing to nearby neighbors or business to out door shooting ranges.

Greg Boston

Self

The Colony, TX

I fully support this bill.

Probably the biggest benefit of passing this bill would be to allow more Texas hunters to help reduce the feral hog population. Feral hogs have become more nocturnal in their activities due to hunting pressure. Use of night vision scopes and legal suppressors has become commonplace in pursuit of feral hogs and other predators. Suppressed gunfire tends to not spook other members of a group of hogs allowing for more of them to be taken in a single event. Many people do not wish or cannot afford the additional cost of a tax stamp and the long wait times for federal approval. Having an all Texas streamlined option towards suppressor ownership would be very beneficial. Use of a suppressor a night is also a courtesy to neighboring land owners especially during overnight hours.

Suppressors also reduce hearing damage for those who do a lot of hunting or extended practice sessions at the range.

It is important to note for those who may not understand firearms that a suppressor is like a muffler on your vehicle. A suppressor IS NOT a silencer. It only reduces the decibel level just as the muffler on your car does not make it absolutely silent, only quieter. Our population and urbanization has dramatically increased since 1934 when suppressors were added to list of items in the NFA. Reducing the noise level of firearms is more relevant now than it was in 1934. It has been said that suppressors were added to the NFA due to night time poaching of cattle by desperately hungry people during the Great Depression, not so much for committing crimes against persons.

Thank you for your time in reading my comment. I hope to see this bill gain support of those who understand what we are up against in Texas with the feral hog population.

Charles Vahrenkamp

Myself, retired

Belton, TX

I support HB 957. Firearms suppressors should have never been included in the list of NFA items. It is not some "evil" device that will "silence" the report from a firearm. It is a noise reduction device that can be used to reduce or eliminate the possibility of hearing damage from the discharge of a firearm while hunting. Based on the logic applied to suppressors, maybe we should add earmuffs and ear plugs to the NFA list. The federal government should change the law for the entire country. But, in the meantime, it would be fantastic if Texas hunters could purchase Texas made suppressors without the cost and burden of having to create an NFA trust, wait 6 months or more for the NFA process to complete and then be forced to pay \$200 to the US treasury.

Dylan Openshaw

Self Door/Glass Jamb fabricator.

Dallas, TX

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I support this bill.

I think it is important to hunters and sportsmen alike to preserve our hearing, and to make life easier for people that live near gun ranges and areas with frequent firearm use. There shouldn't be a need for a federal tax stamp and arbitrary waiting period to be a courteous shooter. The quieter guns can be, the better it is for all Texans.

Curt Hays

Self, Petroleum Analyst

Dallas, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- hunting or training without a suppressor can permanently damage the hearing of young shooters, even with hearing protection
- hunting or training without a suppressor disturbs the peace for neighbors and wildlife
- suppressors are not difficult to acquire extralegally, and crimes are not being committed with suppressors

Levi Sawyer

Self Automotive Technician

Taylor, TX

I support this bill. As a small farm owner who processes our own animals it would be a lot less startling to neighbors and other animals when slaughtering or putting down terminal animals. I also believe that most of the cause for current bans is due to misinformation about how loud a suppressed firearm is. Lastly, it would be a lot more enjoyable not having to wear ear protection when shooting predators on the spur of a moment or when shooting recreationally.

Devon Buffington

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

The federal tax stamp to build your own suppressor is cumbersome and slow

The federal tax stamp does not provide any protection by taxing suppressors. The suppressor itself is not a weapon.

The use of a suppressor, instead of being taxed, should be mandatory for the reduction of sound. This disturbs wildlife less, lessens any damage to hearing caused by shooting and actually improves the performance of the shooter by reducing felt recoil and muzzle rise.

Thank you,
Devon Buffington

Jim Davis

Self

Melissa, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors are not a threat to anyone. All they do is save your hearing and serve as a courtesy to others.

Ronald Smith, Mr.

Ron Smith Guns

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Waco, TX

As a land owner we need suppressors for varmint control, wild hogs, coyotes', and wild dog packs ect.

Michael Ingraham

Myself

Belton, TX

I support this bill for several reasons, a few being:

1. statistics show a very limited number of criminal acts involve a suppressor
2. If items are made in Texas for Texans there should be no need for federal over site in any part of the process
3. Texas should not delay a person getting an aid that will help with hearing protection simply to wait on a broken federal system that takes forever to clear and is an unnecessary expense to citizens.
4. If you can lawfully purchase a firearm no further check should be necessary to purchase an accessory, especially one that is a health aid.
5. Suppressors are accessories just as night vision scopes and slings. Treat them the same in Texas not as Federally regulated (read taxed) items.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Mark Tucker

Mtucker

Bastrop, TX

I support this bill.

Hearing protection is a major concern.

Hunting of feral hogs and coyotes.

I already have a federal taxed registered silencer and its insane that i have to jump thru hoops and pay the unconstitutional federal government \$200 to own one, when they are everyday items in other countries.

Pamela Baty

self/nurse

Austin, TX

Buying into Hollywood making a scary thing of noise suppression devices is silly. We put mufflers on cars. All a noise suppression does is make it so I don't kill my hearing if I shoot a snake while I'm out walking or riding on my land (60+ acres).

Skyler McCarthy

Self

College Station, TX

I support this bill because the 2nd amendment clearly states that the right to bear arms should not be infringed. By putting suppressors behind paywalls and even more background checks, this infringes on the right to own weapons. Also keeping any gun accessories out of the hands of law abiding citizens does nothing but punish them

Ryan Rundell

self

Cypress, TX

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For many people who truly understand firearms, we know suppressors are not silencers. They reduce the decibels of firearms but are far from silent and firearms still present a very distinct sound.

In my perspective on this matter for many firearms, the use of suppression devices helps reduce the risk of potential hearing loss, or damage. Having served in the armed forces and as someone who has ringing in his ears the use of suppressors in addition to hearing protection should not require me to get a tax stamp to help protect my hearing.

Additionally in Texas, there are a significant amount of gun ranges that local neighborhoods would benefit from the use of suppressors by helping to further reduce the noise pollution caused by outdoor and some indoor gun ranges.

Regards,
Ryan Rundell

David Franke
Self engineer
Decatur, TX

I support this bill because I have a family of 6 and we enjoy shooting and hunting. I've had a hard time trying to get my littlest ones to wear hearing protection and has forced me to sometimes not be able to take them with me to the farm to help control the wild pigs we have problems with. Plz pass this bill and make it legal for lawful firearms owners to obtain a supressor without the nfa background checks. I've heard of some taking as long as 11 months to receive an answer. To me that is way to long. And having a suppressor is of no danger to anyone.

Alexander Davis
Gun Owners of America
Waco, TX

I support this bill.

I suffer from hearing loss. Easy to access suppressors would be a huge benefit to me and everyone who wants to keep their hearing, but still shoot.

I also don't believe Texans should be subject to federal laws that violate the 2nd amendment.

Thanks

Derek Collier
self
Farmersville, TX

I support this bill due to the fact that silencers/suppressors have only ever been used in less that .003% of crimes and yet would be one of the most beneficial accessories for law abiding citizens to have and use on their firearms. As a person who already has some hearing loss, these accessories will insure that I retain the remaining hearing I have left. They are also a very courteous way to practice and shoot your firearms on your own property without disturbing your neighbors and producing added "noise pollution". Many countries mandate the use of suppressors to combat that very thing and yet we regulate them my adding a \$200 tax stamp, forcing you to wait an extended waiting period for background checks, and then registering said FIREARM ACCESSORY before that law abiding citizen is even allowed to have what they have already paid good money for. It is a travesty that these accessories are even regulated, much less the hoops one must jump through just to obtain one. These laws also do NOTHING to prevent a criminal from either obtaining a suppressor or manufacturing their own suppressor to use in a crime, it ONLY adds difficulty to the law abiding citizen and infringes on his constitutional rights to have one.

Jeff Hammond

Self

Cibolo, TX

I firmly believe this bill should be passed into law, making it legal for Texans to own suppressor's without having them federally regulated. Everyone deserves the right to protect their hearing if they so choose.

A great example of why we need HB 957 Passed: Home invasion & personal protection, the last thing you would be worried about is to put on hearing protection before protecting yourself, family or property. High decibel sound & muzzle flash can be disorientating while using a firearm unsuppressed, making self protection that much harder. This can also cause permanent physical damage, even in a single event.

I've experienced this firsthand with my father who's a retired SWAT officer and has permanet hearing loss. Thank you

MICHAEL JOHNSON

Self IT Director

Waco, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors reduce hearing damage, suppressors reduce noise pollution, and a suppressor reduces recoil making the weapon more controllable and, in return, safer.

Kelvin Urena

Self.

Killeen, TX

“I support this bill”

1. The federal government has no business infringing on people's rights.
2. This is a violation of the 1911 Dick act.
3. The people have a right to choose not the government!

Jon Denby, Mr.

Self

Dickinson, TX

I support this bill because suppressors are NOT firearms and shouldn't need a special process to buy. Suppressors are safety devices, protecting the hearing of anyone shooting a firearm. Other countries with very strict gun control don't regulate suppressors, they encourage gun owners to get them. Widespread use of suppressors would make shooting ranges less of a nuisance in communities by making them quieter. I encourage everyone to vote for this bill. Thank you for your time.

Mark mcneely

Self

PLANO, TX

I support this bill as we should be able to own these without having to go through a several month long process to get approved. Criminals do not care about legality of owning a supressor so the current process only affects legal gun owners. In addition, any manufacturing that can be brought back to Texas is supported by me.

Victor Johnson

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none

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to express my support of this bill. Firearm suppressors are an important means of protecting a shooter/hunter's hearing. Suppressors lower, not eliminate, the extreme noise produced by modern firearms. Noise that is especially damaging on popular indoor firing ranges. Further, when used in hunting environment they have the salutatory effect of not disturbing non-game species and farm animals with the loud report commonly associated with the heavier hunting calibers.

Patrick Barnett, Mr.

Self

Mission, TX

I am in favor of the bill for several reasons:

Suppressors allow reduced sound for less effect on hearing.

A suppressor should not be subject to some arbitrary Federal bureaucratic decision.

Reduced noise from a firearm minimizes the effect of scaring wildlife when hunting.

Andra Haney

Self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

I support HB 957. Please understand that suppressors do not silence guns. They merely bring the sound down to a lower decibel which can protect the hearing of citizens, thus the reason why they are not referred to as "silencers" now but "suppressors." Suppressors are a safety tool. They can save the hearing of someone trying to defend him/herself, and one doesn't end up with permanent hearing damage. If I am defending myself, I do not believe I could simply call out to my attacker, "Oh, wait, Dangerous Criminal! Let me find my protective ear covers first!" Criminals have more access to obtaining suppressors than a citizen trying to protect home and family. Please support HB957.

Tim Childress

Self

Van Horn, TX

I would ask that you all Support this bill. This bill is a win bill for Texans, responsible ownership of suppressors, and made in Texas!! Suppressors are always made out to be the bad guy, they are a tool to muffle the noise when hunting and or on the range. Please support this bill to restore the trust and Texans rights, and allow tools to reduce noise and decibels. Thank You and Thank You for your consideration and your Service

Hilliard Brittain

Self

Garland, TX

I support HB 957. I would love to be able to shoot without wearing bothersome hearing protection, while feeling confident that I am not damaging my hearing. There is no legitimate argument for the fees, paperwork, and wait times required to own this human-friendly device. I ask you to give this bill your support. Thank you.

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Thomas Tucker

Self

Liberty, TX

I support this bill. As a person who is worried about the hearing impaired I believe you should be able to own a suppressor with out needing to be taxed for it. Why punish people for caring about their hearing

Rebeca Tucker

Self

Liberty, TX

I support this bill. As a person who is worried about the hearing impaired I believe you should be able to own a suppressor with out needing to be taxed for it. Why punish people for caring about their hearing

Debbie Stuart

Self

Port neches, TX

I support this bill. As a person who is worried about the hearing impaired I believe you should be able to own a suppressor with out needing to be taxed for it. Why punish people for caring about their hearing

Garry Tucker

Self

Port neches, TX

I support this bill. As a person who is worried about the hearing impaired I believe you should be able to own a suppressor with out needing to be taxed for it. Why punish people for caring about their hearing

WES BROUSSARD

Self - Designer

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1) Suppressors are a firearm accessory and should not be regulated under the 1934 NFA. The 1934 National Firearms Act was enacted to basically ban the general public from owning certain firearms via a \$200 tax, in 1934. A \$200 tax in 1934 equates to \$3, 925 in 2021.

2) I suffer from tinnitus. Any items that I could use to diminish or reduce the sound of a firearm prevents me from having additional hearing loss. Shooting with hearing protection but without a suppressor can cause my ears to ring for days afterward. I utilize hearing protection, but if the gun is quieter, it helps the hearing protection work better and have a greater effect on noise reduction.

3) Anything we can do to bring more manufacturing and jobs to Texas is a great benefit to the State and the citizens of Texas.

4) Living in the country, I like to be a good neighbor and don't want to be "that guy" that shoots and bothers my neighbors. Having a suppressor will help greatly with being a good neighbor.

5) There is no reason for suppressors to be currently illegal in the State of Texas without a \$200 NFA tax stamp. You should be

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able to walk into any store, such as Academy, and walk out with a suppressor that day. It's a firearm accessory, just like any other accessory and not be regulated by the NFA.

Sincerely,

Wes Broussard

Jim Newman

Self

Grapevine, TX

I support this bill, for the following reasons:

- 1) Suppressor protect hearing, with some indoor/outdoor ranges depending on the surroundings earmuffs or other protective devices are not enough, suppressors only help.
- 2) I also think it is unfair the a tax stamp is needed with the price of \$200.00 should go to the federal government and at the same time you have to wait up to 1 year to get that stamp. This item is not a firearm it is an accessory just like earmuffs, slings, holsters etc.
- 3) Also by passing this bill it brings more money into the state of Texas by allowing Texas made suppressors legal in our state, and allows for more purchases of this product without the federal government getting \$200.00 for doing nothing.

Mark Goetz

Self

Winters, TX

Thanks for your support of the suppressor bill. Suppressors are used to protect hearing. The allow hunting without load noise to scare game and neighbors. And are useful in home security. Hunting wild hogs is more difficult when a suppressor is not used. Thanks again for your support in this very important bill.

Wesley Virdell

Self - Entrepreneur

Brady, TX

I support this bill. The 2nd Amendment is a restriction on government and not a restriction on citizens. The ATF is an unconstitutional organization and it has unconstitutionally placed restrictions on my right to own weapons for defense and accessories related to that weapon.

The ATF and federal government are also in violation of the Commerce Clause in the Constitution. The Commerce Clause was written into the Constitution for the purpose of enabling free trade among the states. It was not meant to regulate product manufacturing, product prices, and interstate commerce. I think we can all agree that the federal government of the 1930s completely abused the Constitution and made things worse for us now.

This bill is legal under the 10th Amendment of the Constitution and we as Texans deserve a government that follows the constitution that it is bound by. Anything not within the Constitution is left up to the states and the people.

Thank you for your time.

Wesley Virdell

Janine Islam, MD

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Self

Tyler, TX

As a physician, I know that my weak, old , and disabled patients need firearms to defend themselves

Texas does NOT need the feds interfering with any of our firearms. Janine Coles Islam MD

kyle baker

Self

Frisco, TX

I support this bill. As a hunter and a recreational shooter to have to pay a \$200 penalty to protect my hearing is ridiculous. If a product is manufactured, sold and used in the state of Texas, then the federal government has no reason to be involved in that process. Please pass this bill and help me and my fellow shooters protect our hearing and the hearing of others without having to pay an extra fee.

John Boudreaux

All texans

Splendora, TX

I support this bill. I believe as Americans we have the right to keep and bear arms. Gun regulation on honest law abiding citizens are an infringement. Suppressors and other firearm accessories have been highly politicised by the Mainstream media and the Democrat establishment. I blame a lack of knowledge, a lack of knowledge in firearms and firearm accessories and a lack of knowledge in the Constitution. My name is John Boudreaux I am a life long Texan and I support this bill.

Jamie Whitehead

Self HVACR

Cuero, TX

I support this bill as it would provide more employment opportunities for the residents of the state of Texas as well as helping to stimulate our local economy. This bill would also help to prevent hearing damage and limit the noise pollution associated with firearms benefiting not only Texas residents but also businesses involved in firing ranges or live fire training. This bill will also make it easier for Texans to enjoy their rights rather than paying an arbitrary tax for what is essentially an accessory.

Paul Piatkowski

self, retired CMSgt USAF, retired Federal Government, part time Arabic translator overseas.

Fischer, TX

I support this bill. It is ludicrous to think that suppressors somehow make a gun more dangerous. They lengthen the gun and make it much more difficult to conceal if someone is trying to do so. The big thing is they really help folks avoid damaging their hearing. I wear hearing aids due to many years of being around loud noises (airplanes and the nature of my job, not guns), and would heartily appreciate some means of lessening the noise level when I go to the range. Sure I wear hearing protection, but being able to have a suppressor without all the tax stamp and artificially expensive due to regulation bs, would help so much more.

Richard Schoon

self retired texas law enforcement

Joshua, TX

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1. noise abatement
2. hearing protection for shooter

Johan McElroy

Self/Retired

La Porte, TX

I support HB 957. I am born and raised here in Texas and I have wanted to use a suppressor but refused to pay the moneys and fill out all the red tape forms needed to use one. It is my constitutional right as a free American to be able to use them. My hearing isn't the best already and I love to hunt and target practice. A suppressor would substantially lesson the sound of the blast saving my ears and anyone else using them. Also, if I'm shooting at my property it wouldn't bother anyone in the cabin when I fire. And when hunting it would give us a better chance at not scaring off other game that may be around after taking a shot. It's just plain common sense to be able to use them without the expense you presently have to pay and all the paperwork. Please support and pass HB 957. Thank you.

Jacob Tullis

self

Conroe, TX

I support this bill because the current NFA laws as interpreted by the ATF are illogical and protect no one. The ATF has stated that a piece of metal with the appropriate thread pitches to attach an oil filter to a firearm is considered a suppressor. The piece of metal does not suppress anything and doesn't actually follow their guidance on what a suppressor is. However, they've deemed it to be a suppressor anyway. This law would help curtail their overreach for needlessly classifying everyday objects that would make an otherwise unaware person a felon should they decide to pursue such action.

Raul Velazquez

Self

Wichita Falls, TX

Greetings

I support this bill (HB 957) which repeals the Texas ban on owning suppressors that don't have a federal tax stamp, because I believe that any law abiding Texans should be able to manufacture, sell and own Made in Texas suppressors that are not and should not be subject to federal regulations. This will allow law abiding Texans to start their own businesses, which I believe it will help contribute to the Texas economy.

It will also allow law abiding responsible gun owners to have an accessory for their firearms that they should be able to own without having to go through the extra tax payment and extra background check. If an individual is legally allowed to own a firearm they should be able to own any accessory for that firearm that they choose to own.

I am in support of HB 957 for these reasons I mentioned.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely Raul Velazquez

Thomas Huckaby

Self

Allen, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. This will allow hunters and shooters to pursue shooting sports with the risk of hearing damage. As suppressors are caliber specific, you can't just buy one and maintain the tax stamp for multiple guns.

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2. This supports the Texas local economy by creating local jobs and skills in manufacturing.
3. This would set a precedent for states to express states rights over federal opinions and laws that have questionable Constitutional standing.

Ricky Burkhalter

Self

Magnolia, TX

1. Hearing protection
2. Help ranchers in wildlife management.
3. This item should not be part of the NFA.

Dan Marquardt

Self / Consultant

Granbury, TX

I support this bill.

1. A suppressor doesn't lend itself to criminal activity; it makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable, and only reduces the sound 30 decibels.
 2. The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health.
 3. Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage.
- It's time to pass a law that allows law abiding Texas residents to purchase suppressors without the additional tax and year long wait times, before receiving the product.

R.T. Hicketier, Mr.

Self

Montgomery, TX

I support the passage of HB 957 into Texas State law for the following reasons:

1. Firearm suppressors provide a degree of hearing safety to shooters as well as those in close proximity to where the firearm is discharged.
2. Law-abiding Texas citizens will be relieved of the onerous and costly regulatory procedures imposed by the Federal mandates if suppressors are manufactured in Texas

Chris Larsen

self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill. The federal regulation surrounding suppressors is outdated, based on misinformation, and makes no actual sense. The US regulates them more severely than countries with extreme firearm regulations. Ignoring its NFA status is a step in the right direction of making suppressors an over the counter item like any other firearm modification instead of having to pay an extra \$200 and wait almost a year for the federal paperwork to process. A suppressors real purpose is to help protect the users hearing and reduce a firearms recoil. Both hunters and recreational shooters would benefit from this.

Stacey Musick, Ms

Self/Nurse

Apple Springs, TX

I support this bill and I am contacting you today requesting that you support HB 957. I have listed just a few reasons to back gun suppressors.

—Suppressors do NOT silence guns.

Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage.

- The Occupational Safety Hazard Association (OSHA) limit is 140 decibels.

A suppressor brings a firearm sound just under the hazard limit, reducing the risk of permanent hearing damage.

- The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health

— A suppressor doesn't lend itself to criminal activity — it makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable, and only reduces the sound 30 decibels.

- Who uses a suppressor? Those who shoot guns and don't want permanent hearing damage.

When hunting: a suppressor makes it easier to communicate with those around you (no ear muffs)

- A suppressor makes shooting less of a nuisance for the surrounding area.

- A suppressor reduces recoil, making a gun easier to control, and therefore makes it safer.

Again I implore you to VOTE FOR HB 957.

Matt Lohr

self / software tester

Spring, TX

I support this bill because all restrictions on suppressors are immoral, illogical, and unconstitutional. If the Federal government will not do the right thing, then Texas must assert its sovereignty and protect the human rights of its residents until the Federal level catches up.

aaron barnes

myself, millwork industry

normangee, TX

I support this bill.

Suppressor use has no effect on criminal activity. Criminals will use them if they want to, legal or not. Hardly ever are they used in criminal activity.

Suppressors can dramatically reduce the noise level on firearms ranges, improving the quality of life for the communities around them.

Suppressors by nature reduce the impact of firearms use on people's hearing, lessening long-term effects of tinnitus and hearing loss as a whole.

The federal government refuses to use common sense when it comes to firearms as a whole, much less suppressors. State government is the only hope left to actually represent the people.

Garrett Cartmill

Self Accounting

Cumby, TX

I support this bill due to the following reasons:

1. Hearing loss due to the decibels of unsuppressed firearms is a large concern of mine, as my parents and their friends have gotten older loud noise exposure has damaged their hearing and lowered their quality of life.
2. This will provide jobs and revenue for Texas and create and maintain a culture of lawful and dedicated firearms enthusiasts.
3. For home defense a suppressor helps to maintain your visual sense should you have to defend yourself, by limiting the flash a firearm creates. Making further investigation, and securing your property or rendering aid much easier.

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Thank you.

Garrett L. Cartmill

Samuel Crumpton, Sgt
Self/Correctional Sergeant
Huntsville, TX

I support this bill because suppressors are about hearing protection. They preserve the hearing of the shooter and persons in his/her vicinity. Suppressors help reduce stress to wildlife, causing less panic in the woods and less disturbance to businesses and people that might be within earshot. Suppressors are widely used in other countries because of these reasons and they do no harm. To shoot or hunt with others without one is considered very rude.

Scott Heggem
Self, engineer
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors do not make a firearm silent, they simply make it less damaging to the shooter's hearing. Paying a \$200 tax on an artificially inflated price (due to federal restrictions) and waiting 6-9 months (or more) for a piece of equipment that makes the shooting sports safer and less bothersome to non-shooters is frankly stupid. A suppressor increases the size of a firearm and makes it harder or impossible to conceal. There is no valid reason to regulate suppressors. Any and all current regulations are in place to only to expand federal powers and to restrict citizen's freedoms.

Please pass this bill.
Regards,
Scott Heggem

Eric Adams
N/a
Brookshire, TX

Hearing protection for hunters and hobbyists.

Trevor Hunt
Self/Commercial Driver
ROBINSON, TX

I am for the passing of HB957 for;

- 1) this will give domestic (Texan) manufacturers increased autonomy and potential for growth.
- 2) this will reduce Federal powers to prosecute what is a victimless action.
- 3) this will encourage reinforcement and advancement of future 2A-pro policy.

Donald Rutledge, Sgt
Self
Allen, TX

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I fully support this Bill it helps in hearing protection and stability

Evan Wright

Self

Austin, TX

My household, I, and all of my friends and family in Texas support this bill.

Suppressors are a vital protection device for anyone who exercises their constitutional and fundamental human right of their right to bear arms. Anyone who has been around firearms know how damaging it is to their ears and that damage is permanent.

Suppressors have a high barrier to entry because they are regulated under the NFA, which requires a \$200 tax stamp, and 8+ month wait while the paperwork is pending, and an inflated price. So the rich are able to afford them while poorer people can not. There is no reason why they should not be treated the same as a regular long gun and just require a 4473 transfer form and you can walk out the same day that you pay for your own property. We do not wait for a car dealership to receive the metal license plates before we can drive a new car off the lot, so why should a suppressor be any different?

Anthony Miller

Self

Houston, TX

Silencers are accessories and not firearms. They are no different than a car muffler. There is no reason a safety device should be made harder to obtain than a standard firearm. It just makes it a more pleasant shooting experience, and saves hearing damage. They're sold over the counter in Europe why not here

Jeannie Hassell

Self / Retired

Zapata, TX

I support this bill because it would accomplish three things:

- (1) Repeal TX criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations. (TX Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).);
- (2) Establish a class of "Made in Texas" suppressors that must be manufactured in Texas from Texas-made parts, must stay in Texas, and are exempt from Federal regulations;
- (3) Give a path to secure a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of this law before someone manufactures "Made in Texas" suppressors.

Your prompt attention to supporting this bill is requested. Thank you, God bless you and God bless Texas!!

Ryan Lamb, Mr.

Self. Firearms instructor.

Austin, TX

Allowing suppressors to be regulated at a state level can make them significantly more accessible for law abiding citizens. Suppressors aid in greatly protecting a firearms enthusiasts hearing protection. Suppressors aid in the comfort level for new firearms shooters which makes the gun range more accessible and less scary. By making suppressors more accessible and in turn making gun ranges more accessible, this helps increase knowledge, education, and safe firearms handling for law abiding citizens. By increasing education for firearms the government can effectively reduce accidental deaths and irresponsible use of firearms.

James Richards

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Self / Disabled

Center Point, TX

I Support this Bill and Wish to See it Enacted to Repeal the Ban on "Made in Texas Suppressors"! Using a Suppressor Greatly Enhances the Protection of Hearing to All those Nearby. Suppressors also Increase the Enjoyment at the Range and in the Field While Shooting. Suppressors also Limit the Disturbance to Wildlife and Neighbors while Still being Plenty Loud Enough to Warn Anyone the Shooting is Occurring in the Vicinity!

Thank You for Your Consideration
James Richards

Matthew Furbee

Self, System Support Specialist IV

Cleveland, TX

I support the removal of suppressors from the Texas penal code. They are hearing protection devices and while they do reduce the sound produced from a firearm they do not make them whisper quiet. They should be encouraged as they reduce noise pollution while hunting on public lands. At a public range it is often not enough to protect our citizens hearing with just hearing protection even with electronic hearing protection repeated exposure over years will lead to hearing loss. Please for the safety of our citizens deregulate suppressors even if they require a background check like purchasing a firearm the public would benefit as a whole.

Michael Brown

Self, supply chain

Paris, TX

I am former military and currently suffer from tinnitus and hearing loss due to gunfire without a suppressor. I always wore approved ear protection but that is simply not enough. These devices reduce gunfire to a hearing safe level and should be viewed as a safety device not an NFA item that requires a tax stamp. The \$200 tax stamp and other costs such as trusts and notary public fees make these safety devices out of reach to the average gun owner.

Norman Dvorak

self/Retired

League City, TX

I think that suppressors are a great thing to have. It would protect your ears from damage when you shoot a gun and you wouldn't bother your neighbors who are close enough to hear you firing your weapon. I have never been able to afford one but I have thought about making my own suppressor but have never actually done it. I say it's about time that Texas took the step to allow Texans to purchase one without a Tax Stamp or to make one themselves.

Sincerely
Norman Dvorak

Andrew Carter

Self/Territory Sales Representative

Perrin, TX

I am in support of this. I like the idea of forcing it to be made in Texas & stay in Texas. If it is made in Texas, bought in Texas, and stays in Texas it should be fine. This would also provide more commerce to Texas. Silencers are not dangerous. They help keep your hearing safe, and God forbid I need to protect my home and family with it, it will keep their hearing safe as well. They would also be nice to hunt with. Some deer stands can have quite an echo even with earmuffs. The CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health. A suppressor doesn't lend itself to criminal activity — it makes a gun heavier,

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longer, less concealable.

Thank you,
Andrew Carter

Sergio Venzor
Self
Midland, TX

Anything firearm related is our constitutional god given right and suppressors are no exception. We the people keep getting more and more of our constitution rights being stripped and never have anything added. It is time for the great state of Texas to lead the way removing federal regulation of suppressors. States have that authority and seldom exercise it. Now more than ever that time has come. God bless

Ziyi Yu
Self - Software Engineer/Army Reservist
Round Rock, TX

It is about time our State Government recognizes the safety aspects of firearm suppressors! Not only can they prevent hearing loss, but they can drastically improve situational awareness in a home-defense situation where you may need all your senses intact. Additionally, with the stipulation that the suppressors must be manufactured and bought in-state, I expect a substantial increase in sales tax revenue as well as economic boost from sales.

Zachary Michaels
Self
Lubbock, TX

I support this bill and want to see it passed.

Charles W Ford
My family
Boerne, TX

I am in complete support of this Bill. I think that it is unnecessary for the Federal government to control anything that is legal that I would like to purchase. Not only that, but there is a one year backlog. I am a gun rights advocate and I am a staunch supporter of the second amendment.

Noah Brooks
Self- Teamster
Newark, TX

I support this bill as it is shown suppressors are not used in violent crime and these federal and state restrictions on suppressors are unconstitutional.

Neil Olney
self
Austin, TX

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This bill would do many things from supporting Texas private businesses to protecting the hearing of its sporting and hunting citizens. If passed countless people will have a much better chance of protecting their hearing.

Gary McGraw

Self / HVAC

Bander, TX

There should not be any regulations on a legally owning a suppressor. We use them for hog hunting at night. We also use them on home defense firearms because who has the time to put on hearing perfection when you are investigating a burglary to your home in the middle of the night. Please pass HB 957

Thomas Foster

self/automotive technician

Blanco, TX

I support this bill because #1 I have a right to the ownership and usage of a suppressor without government background checks and oppressive taxation. Suppressors provide a higher level of safety and protection of hearing, though in most all cases does not silence a rifle or pistol round. If "my government needs them for military or law enforcement use than I need one for the exact reasons also.

Bruce Patterson

Self

Georgetown, TX

This bill saves our hearing, the hearing of our friends, and most importantly, the hearing of our children. Forget the Hollywood hype and support our right to help ourselves and protect others from needless hearing loss

Brandon Cotton

Self / Oil & Gas

Houston, TX

Firearms suppressors are nothing more than a safety device for the user and those around them, and should be readily available as such. Hollywood films have vilified / exaggerated these devices dramatically and steps should be taken to make them available to legal gun owners.

Don Gray

Self, CPA

Austin, TX

Suppressors, or silencers, are safety devices that protect the public and should be freely available, but the current regulatory scheme makes them too expensive and difficult to acquire unless they are illegally made, which to me is complete madness. I don't understand why a completely harmless item is subject to expensive regulation and enforcement.

Contrary to media depictions, firearms equipped with a silencer or suppressor are usually still plenty loud, most of them only reduce noise just enough to make it safer (indeed in some cases the shooter still has to wear some hearing protection, but others around the shooter will be safe). Indeed, most popular loads in the most popular calibers of ammunition are supersonic, meaning they can't be made quiet like you see in the movies. While it is possible to make some firearms very quiet with specialized ammunition, this is a niche application and someone willing to go through so much trouble for nefarious purposes is not likely to

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be swayed by restrictions.

Christopher Clary

Self

Tyler, TX

Make this a Texas state right

Samuel Weaver

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Firearm Suppressors typically only reduce sound by 25-35 decibels. This is similar to the sound reduction of most ear mufflers. Most firearms produce about 140-160 decibels. This is equivalent to the sound of a jet engine and very bad for hearing. Reducing the sound to 120-130 db is still very loud and won't hide a crime being committed. However, the sound is reduced enough that a firearm can be fired without hearing protection. This is extremely important in home defense situations and for hunting. Sound suppressors are expensive and almost never used in crime. Criminal typically use the cheapest or stolen firearms, so as to be readily disposable. The noise reduction of a SS is not significant enough to justify it's use in crime.

The National Firearms Act, which regulates sound suppressors at the federal level, is not simply a tax. It requires registration, background check and regulates suppressors. The commerce clause allows regulation "among the several states." A sound suppressor manufactured, sold and used within a single state should not be subject to federal regulation. Besides this, the NFA is a violation of the 2A, which is without limit. The 2A makes every American adult, part of the state militia. To allow the federal government to regulate what arms can be owned, would completely neuter the purpose of the Second Amendment.

Jamie Leiendecker

Self

League City, TX

I support this bill and the state of Texas should also, for the following reasons. Sound suppressors on firearms, are not like they are shown in the movies. They only lower the decibel rating of a rifle report to limit damage to hearing. The firearms can still clearly be heard. Most European countries, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia already allow unregulated use of suppressors because they recognize this value in hearing protection. According to the FBI, suppressors are used extremely rarely in criminal activity in the United States. Texas and the United States are far behind the rest of the world with regard to Health and Safety in this instance.

Vicky Weaver, Dcs.d.

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

The kansas case that the supreme court refused to hear, was a travesty of justice. The supreme court was pressured by the Trump presidency not to hear the appeal. The federal government has exceeded both the commerce clause and the second amendment with the national firearms act. States should continue to pressure the Supreme Court to establish precedence and retake power relegated to the states.

C. B. Hopkins, Mr.

self

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Fredericksburg, TX

I support this bill for a number of reasons. Among them are:

I have suffered thru the federal NFA acquisition process on several occasions and am familiar with their "slow walking" paper work for no apparent reason other than just because they can. I have had paper work take over 18 months to be approved. Add to that being taxed to garner permission from the govt to exercise my rights. I have found no record of discussion as to why suppressors were added to the 1934 NFA. If suppressors were indeed added to the 1934 NFA to curb criminal use, what is to prevent criminals from going to their local auto parts store and buying a fuel or oil filter which can be used as effectively?

Suppressors do not "silence" firearm report. They "suppress" the noise by about 30 decibels, or reducing a muzzle report from an average of 1dB to about 120dB. OSHA and NIH concur that noise levels above 85dB are harmful. Even the US Military has done research about hearing protection and has found purchasing and issuing suppressors to every member of the Armed Forces would be less expensive than the medical treatments for vets after they suffer the hearing loss suppressors can prevent.

Even in Great Britain with some of the most draconian firearms laws on earth, suppressors (or mufflers or moderators as they call them) are more readily available than here and it is considered "rude behavior" to NOT use a suppressor, even on air rifles both for hearing protection as well as noise pollution.

Thank you for your time

Raymond Meyer Jrl

Self/Rancher

Yoakum, TX

A Federal Tax Stamp to own a suppressor places a financial burden on landowners using such a device in controlling wild hogs which is primarily done at night, and prevents gunfire disturbing neighbors.

Troy Maynard

Self, Locksmith

Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill 100% I have lost 65% of my hearing from hunting and range time, I now use suppressors I don't want my grand kids to suffer hearing loss like I have. Another reason is to shoot and not bother my neighbors while I enjoy shooting at my personal range and I enjoy taking my grand kids so again hearing loss.

And last this should have been done year's ago we should not have to pay a TAX for this we are over taxed as it is now.

Sincerely,

Troy Maynard

Josh Harless

Law abiding citizens of the State of Texas. Facilities

Argyle, TX

I would vote to abolish federal regulations in regards to suppressors in the State of Texas, and nation wide. This is both for homemade and/ or purchased. They are not a danger to society. They are a way to help protect your hearing and reduce recoil in some circumstances.

Stephan Smith

Self

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Seguin, TX

I support this bill. There is no reason suppressors should be regulated in the manner they are. They do not in any way make a firearm silent, they simply tone down the decibels and in some cases hearing protection is still required. They do aid in reducing the decibels to a level that is not as obnoxious therefore aiding in hearing protection.

Thank you.

Angie Maynard

Office Manager

Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill. My husband has lost most of his hearing due to hunting and shooting at the range. It should be looked at as a courtesy for other people we have a private range at our property and know it bothers our neighbors sometimes when we are shooting a non-suppressed weapon.

Sincerely,

Angie Maynard

Christian Riva

Self

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions on HB 957. I support this bill for two reasons, the first being that suppressor ownership has been incorrectly vilified and regarded as "silencing" a firearm's shot, where this could not be further from the truth as most barely reduce the crack more than a few decibels. That said, countries like Switzerland require by law the use of suppressors given their ability to save hearing for shooters and protect wildlife. The second reason I support this bill is that it negates radically changing federal oversight by disregarding emotionally charged executive orders, and builds local business here in Texas. God bless and thank you once again for this opportunity.

Kevin Perez

Self

Orange Grove, TX

My name is Kevin Perez, and I support HB 957 because, as a veteran I already suffer from hearing loss. I don't think that I should have to pay a FEE, then have to wait upwards of a year in order to be allowed to protect what hearing I've got remaining. I believe that the fact that this bill is being brought forth shows that there are Representatives that understand that just because it says "silencer" on the original patent for the device, that it is not truly a silencer. It merely muffles the sound of the shot down to a hearing safe level for the individual. When I am out hunting I want to be able to hear everything that is going on around me, thus any hearing protecting will hinder me. A suppressor allows me to be able to hear all that I want to hear, take a shot and not suffer the potential for further hearing loss.

Jeb Brown, Mr.

self

Boerne, TX

I support this bill. 1) I have bad hearing and need to protect it as much as I can. I shouldn't have to ask permission to do so, pay a \$200 fine and be forced to wait for, in some instances 13 months for approval. 2) We need to be able to have suppressors inside of Texas that are not subject to Federal encroachments, and therefore, penalties. 3) Please provide a way so that when they are manufactured here, the Fed's cannot arrest them. 4) It's nice to knock down some of the noise so that your neighbors can enjoy their Sunday when they are done shooting also. Thanks!

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Roger Lawson
Self, IT support
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. It is time that we had the law updated in regards to the ownership of firearm suppressors. Hopefully, to ones that are not based upon the Hollywood myth that suppressors are only for the intended purpose of committing crime and removing the hurdles law abiding citizens have to jump through in order to obtain one. Presonally, as a citizen with substantial hearing loss, I would like to do all that I can to prevent any further damage and if I can support Texas businesses, while safeguarding my health than all the better.

Michael Bradford, Mr
Self
Pampa, TX

As a hunter and recreational shooter, I strongly support being free to install and use a suppressor. Hearing protection and noise reduction make perfect sense to those of us in the firearms community and its a shame government punishes us with unnecessary taxation on suppressors. Please support this bill on my behalf.

Thank you for lending me an ear on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mike Bradford

Daniel Wiggins
Self
FLOWER MOUND, TX

I support this bill

John Uresti
Self
San marcos, TX

I support this bill, HB 957, because I believe law abiding Texas citizens should be able to own deregulated firearm accessories such as the suppressor.

Suppressed guns protects users by bringing the decibels down on firearms, and can help reduce hearing loss. Many European countries do not regulate these items even close to what America has, and they are treated as an over the counter item that one may buy. It would be no different to the government or business if you bought a flashlight, a suppressor, or stock for your gun. They understand that these are hearing protection devices and not assassin accessories that Hollywood would like you to believe. For example there are only around 44 Suppressor crimes a year, and most if not all are from people owning unregistered items with very few being crimes or homicides.

While suppressing a firearm does reduce the decibels it does not so much as one might think as perpetuated by Hollywood. A 9mm pistol has an average Db rating of 160 db and with a suppressor goes down to around 120 db which is equivalent to a jackhammer at a construction site. Restricting suppressors was a classist move from the government in 1934 as you needed to buy a stamp to own it legally which at the time was around \$200. However that price has not changed and if it were going by inflation would be roughly 3,925.58 in 2021. This was also put into law during the Great Depression I might add where everyday citizens were struggling with just surviving. Furthermore silencers were never argued to be banned by legislators during the hearings, and they were only ever really mentioned when they were reading the part of the bill that mentions restricting silencers. There was no mention of crime, how they work, what they do, or might do!

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Bringing new business to Texas would increase revenue generated by new manufacturers who would surely move their business to Texas to support an audience size as large as Texas gun owners. It could create and bring new technology and new material sciences as this would be a groundbreaking piece of legislation that would unwrap the tight grips the federal government has over the great state of Texas. Suppressors are becoming more common as in 2011 there were around 285,082 registered suppressors in America and has increased to around 1,489,791 in 2018 and the number has only gone up.

As a Citizen of this great nation and even greater State I urge our legislators to back this bill and lead the charge against infringements of our constitutional rights, but to show other states that we can and will lead the fight on fighting gun stigma and ignorance in our communities. Please consider how and why the suppressor is on the NFA today and why it is undoubtedly a “feel good” piece of legislation that has no business here in the State of Texas. Thank you for your time and I appreciate the consideration.

John Uresti

Alexander Herstein, Mr

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Suppressors are safety devices that never should have been on the NFA. Pass this bill.

Jonathan Tristan

Self

Houston, TX

Just a money grab by the government on law abiding citizens.

Benjy Walters

Self, Project Manager

Conroe, TX

I personally would appreciate the ability to own suppressors without going

Matt Wilson

Self/ Supplier Development Engineer

San Antonio, TX

An unsuppressed gunshot ranges from 140 - 185dB. This can cause permanent hearing loss from a single report. Research shows that up to 80% of hunters never wear hearing protection. Hearing protection is even less likely to be worn in a home defense situation when seconds are critical. Suppressors do not make firearms more lethal or dangerous. Quite the opposite, a firearm can be made more safe when accounting for the fact that injuries can be induced not only from the projectile, but also to any bystanders nearby from the report, especially in confined areas. Lowering the entry barrier to suppressor ownership is just good common sense that will protect the health and safety of the citizens of Texas.

Beryl Cotton

Self/ Engineer retired

Lexington, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors should not be a regulated item. They are not hazardous devices rather they provide for better

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health by protecting hearing. Suppressors are not regulated in other countries and are required in many. This bill will allow use of a suppressor to protect a user's hearing without the burdensome federal regulations. Also, removes the need to keep paperwork with a suppressor at all times. Allows family or friends to use the suppressor without having a tax stamp. Does not make a spouse a felon upon the death of suppressor owner.

Eric Snow

Self

Aubrey, TX

Firearm suppressors should not be federally regulated items. The sole purpose of a suppressor is to bring the gunshot down to a hearing-safe decibel level for the firearm operator. They do not silence the gunshot entirely. During a home defense situation, a firearm suppressor makes it possible for the homeowner to defend themselves without damaging their own hearing or disorientating themselves by the gunshot's unsafe decibel levels. The shot can still be heard by neighbors and other occupants of the enclosed space. The suppressor does nothing to enhance the firearm in any way or make the firearm more lethal than it already comes from the manufacturer.

George Smith

Self

San Antonio, TX

My family, extended family and I all support this bill.

God bless Texas,

George

Tim Kane

Self/retired

Tyler, TX

I support HB 957 by Oliverson which would create a Texas suppressor category.

Suppressors are not used in criminal activity. Their sole purpose is to reduce harmful sounds and prevent hearing loss when shooting.

I urge the Committee to support this bill.

Justin Campbell

Self

Plano, TX

I support this bill because:

1. I don't understand the logic of suppressors being a NFA item to begin with. The weapons can still be heard.
2. They are an accessory that makes shooting safer, and more enjoyable for all involved.
3. The background checks have already been passed when you own the firearm. Why should it take months to obtain a suppressor and have to pay an extra fee?

Aligning Texas more closely with the laws of a state like Montana, for example, is a win for all Texans and gun owners everywhere.

Kurt Schulz

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Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill

- 1 - It protects the ears and hearing of users and others in close proximity.
- 2 - less noise will be less distracting within a wider area.
- 3 - Arbitrary Federal regulations and taxes are an infringement on our freedoms and liberties.
- 4 - Suppressors increase firearm safety.
- 5 - I have seen no evidence that suppressors have any relationship to gun violence or crime. It is an imaginary and made up argument based on no facts.

Philip Vinyard

self, student at Texas A&M

Amarillo, TX

I support this bill.

This bill would allow Texans to own devices that are proven to reduce damage to hearing from operating firearms. Another benefit of this bill is that it would help to keep unelected bureaucrats at the ATF from redefining these safety devices, or deciding to no longer approve the sale of these to lawful citizens.

Suppressors are also seen as a courtesy to neighbors in rural areas, where a range day currently could disturb people miles away with the noise. In certain European countries (with stricter gun control than America) it is considered a common courtesy to use suppressors when shooting to limit noise pollution.

Also, this bill would go a long way to securing Texans fundamental, natural right to self defense, as suppressors are commonly used (by those who have paid the tax to the federal government) on guns kept by bedside in case of a bump in the night, so that hearing is not destroyed by discharging a firearm in an enclosed area to defend one's life and the lives of one's family. I firmly believe Texans (and all humans) have the right to defend themselves with the best equipment available, and suppressors are a tool that can protect the operator of a firearm from unnecessary pain and loss of ear function.

To address common arguments against suppressors: they do not make a gun silent. Hollywood often has a James Bond-esque spy using them to silently eliminate their enemies, but in reality suppressors are still loud enough to recognize as a gunshot. They merely suppress the sound, not silence it. As such, suppressors have almost never been used in crime, because they are heavy, and do not help the gunshot evade detection.

Christopher Grant

Self

Webster, TX

Please consider bringing this bill to a vote. Like many others, I am a responsible gun owner and also own a few suppressors. The typical wait time to get the needed NFA stamp from the ATF is over a year. My last stamp took a year-and-a-half. That's a ridiculous wait time for a safety device that helps keep you from losing your hearing while at the range. I suffer from tinnitus and wouldn't wish that on anyone, which is why this bill is so important for Texas residents.

Brad Shaw

Self

Seguin, TX

This is a fantastic bill. There is no reason for a suppressor to be considered anything other than hearing protection in this day and age. Hollywood sound effects has no basis in reality and suppressors dont silence gunshots.

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Robert Simmons
Self - Preacher/Evangelist
LEANDER, TX

I fully support this bill. Allowing Texans to own suppressors will assist in preventing hearing loss. Texans who need this item and purchase suppressors that are made in Texas for Texans is such a good thing.

Don Mils
Self
Dallas, TX

Suppressors are valuable tools to prevent hearing loss of all persons within hearing distance of firearms, esp at shooting ranges. They also prevent disturbance of resident wildlife during hunting situations.

Ryan Pflieger
Personal
HOUSTON, TX

Having both purchased and made a suppressor legally, paying my \$200 ATF tax stamp and waiting months for approval I believe this bill is the step in the right direction. Suppressors should not take months to years to get approval to purchase, especially when you already have a LTC, prior suppressors you've purchased etc. Even with my suppressor, my gun will be so loud that you will have permanent hearing damage when fired, they are not like movies, they only help lower the volume from needing to wear both ear plugs and over the ear hearing protection, to just ear plugs. This bill will create jobs, allow texans to shoot their guns with LESS risk of hearing damage, and allow people who can't afford \$200 on top of the cost of a suppressor to experience quieter hunting, gun range trips, or even home defense. Home defense is another huge boon to this. If I have to defend myself I know I will have permanent hearing damage. If I use a suppressor to defend myself my \$1,000+ investment will be taken by the police as evidence and I may never get it back. Meanwhile if this bill passes, I can make suppressors for much cheaper and not have to worry about the threat of losing so much money. It just makes sense to pass this bill due to the fact that the benefits outweigh any cons by orders of magnitude.

Ron Krueger
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Please pass this bill. Federal regulation of suppressors is ridiculous. They do not make a gun silent in any way. All they do is bring down the decibel levels generated by firing a gun to a level that effects hearing loss less.

Matthew Little
Self
Mckinney, TX

Suppressors are used by gun enthusiasts and hunters. These devices are not used in the commission of crimes. These are already heavily regulated NFA items and should not be further restricted items.

Ken Rugar, Mr.
Self
Heath, TX

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Firearm suppressors promote healthy hearing for law abiding shooters and gun enthusiasts. THEY ARE NOT SILENCERS. Most suppressors reduce decibels resulting from gunfire to just under 140, which is plenty loud but not harmful to the human ear. Many shooters, myself included, continue to wear hearing protection when shooting firearms equipped with a suppressor. I believe that the current law, which requires a detailed federal investigation by the ATF of the gun owner is nonsensical and overly intrusive. In addition, it can take up the one year for the ATF to complete its investigation of the buyer, which does not make sense given what suppressors are designed to do.

Bert Nettles, Mr

Self

Mckinney, TX

I am for the consideration and passage of this bill. Furthermore the passage of a constitutional carry bill in the state of Texas

Brendon Gaige

Self - IT Director for a Trade Services Company

MCKINNEY, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors have continued to gain popularity and are now common use, despite the Federal governments asinine attempts at making their ownership and usage as complex as possible, as well as discriminatory to lower income citizens. Suppressors do NOT function like they do in the movies, but they do make the shooting experience safer and more pleasant for those around the gun fire. With more and more States also allowing suppressor use during hunting, it only makes sense to remove the barriers to entry the NFA has created, unconstitutionally and without warrant on suppressor ownership.

jeff chan

homeowner

MCKINNEY, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

My family and I really need to protect our hearing from further loss. A suppressor helps to preserve hearing. In a self-defense situation, a firearm with a suppressor is a must to protect from hearing loss.

Fact: Suppressors do NOT silence guns. Without a suppressor, a gunshot is ~160 decibels. Just 1 shot can cause permanent hearing damage. With a suppressor, a gunshot is mid-130's decibels. Suppressors should be made readily available to Texans without the onerous Federal rules and regulations.

Sergey Izmailyan

self

Houston, TX

I applaud the bill and its sponsors, suppressors are important safety devices that should be made more widely available. The general availability of suppressors will reduce hearing damage and reduce the annoyance for neighbors of hunters and shooters.

Lynn Richard

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill and its protections for my 2nd Amendment rights as granted by God and protected by the US Constitution.

Eric McKenney

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self

Waxahachie, TX

I believe Texans should be able to use suppressors, additionally I completely support the U.S. Constitution and all amendments. Thank you for your time, God Bless.

Thomas Oas

Self, payroll work

Lewisville, TX

I strongly support this bill. First, silencers are not firearms and should not be regulated in the same manner, literally, as machine guns. In European countries, silencers can be purchased on the spot, over the counter because they are nothing more than a sound attenuation device. Silencers are definitely not "silent", and are actually still very loud -- but they do reduce hearing damage for high-volume shooters, or anyone who may need to discharge a weapon without hearing protection (hunters, self-defense situations). If you have no exposure to silencers, I *strongly* urge you to see what they're all about. They are absolutely nothing like in the movies, but they do offer some benefits to shooters. Think of them as nothing more than mufflers on a car -- which is exactly what they are. Odd that mufflers are required on cars, but heavily regulated and taxed on firearms. This should change. Silencers were banned in the 1930s as part of the National Firearms Act with literally zero debate, during a time when the liberals of the day tried to outlaw virtually all firearms, including all handguns. Texas should lead the way in changing people's perception about these hearing protection tools.

GLENN WILLETT, MR.

Montgomery County, TEXAS

Conroe, TX

This bill needs to be passed for all of the hunters in Texas. Thank you!

Darrel Rhyne

Self

Toyahvale, TX

I support this bill. I am native son Texan, retired and have served over a decade as a Texas Peace Officer and over two decades in public health. I am a shooting enthusiast and enjoy shooting sports with family and friends. I currently endure constant ringing in my ears which I am sure is due in-part to years of shooting without proper hearing protection. Noise suppressors on guns are only a tool. Suppressors do not silence guns. Suppressors only suppress the noise of the firearm to just under the hazard limit and in doing so helps to reduce the risk of permanent hearing damage. Suppressors also reduce the recoil of a firearm which makes the firearm easier to control and therefor helps make the firearm safer. The CDC recommends the use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard ones health. I encourage you to protect the rights and health of fellow Texans and pass this bill.

Steven Sparling

Self

Austin, TX

Firearm suppressors or silencers make target or competitive shooting sports more enjoyable and safer for shooters all over, as well as help outdoor ranges have a lower impact on surrounding areas.

They do not make a traditional firearm "Hollywood" quiet, and also make firearms larger and much harder to conceal making the argument that they do not aid criminal activity.

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Many other countries do not regulate firearm suppressors for these reasons and we should also have these freedoms.

Michael Brannick

Self/Retired

Wylie, TX

I want to see this bill passed, so please send it to the House floor ASAP. Suppressors have been unfairly labeled as a tool of criminals. They are inaccurately called "silencers." In fact, a suppressor reduces the sound of a gun shot to about the same sound level as a jack hammer. They do not allow criminals to shoot people without making a sound. What they do achieve is to reduce the loudness to a point where they are much less likely to damage the shooters hearing, or the hearing of others nearby. Can the opponents of this bill find any case where a suppressor was used by a criminal? It is unfair and unnecessary to prohibit or limit the ownership of suppressors. Thank you.

Brad Salinas

Resident

Gainesville, TX

I agree with this statement. No government should or shall infringe on any firearm or product/part of a firearm at any point in time. "Shall not be infringed". Come and take it.

Don Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support hb957

Lou Wood

Self

Houston, TX

Y

Fran Iacopelli

self - IT

Kerrville, TX

I strongly urge the Texas Legislature to support bill HB-957. Firearm suppressors have long had a unfounded bad reputation and needlessly controlled for too long. Unlike as they are portrayed in film and movies, firearm suppressors do NOT make the weapon "silent". It only reduces the noise of the firearm an average of 20 – 35 dB about the loudness of a whisper. An average gunshot = 165-170db while a suppressed gunshot = 130dB, however they do go a long way in the preservation of hearing to the shooter and those around them. The most serious threat to hearing comes from recreational hunting or target shooting. They do not make the weapon more deadly or easier to commit a crime. On the contrary, any weapon wishing to support a suppressor must have a specially threaded barrel not common in typical firearms.

I urge you to support this vital bill.

Thank you.

jacob lucas

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Self

Kyle, TX

Suppressors should not require a tax stamp as they can be used for hunting and suppressing the noise generated by hunting activities. A suppressor is just a firearm accessory reducing noise. I do not feel suppressors would create an unsafe environment for anyone.

Thomas Mayfield, Mr

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Firearm Suppressors should be considered a safety device, protecting the hearing of shooters. The additional length and weight of a suppressor make firearms harder to conceal, which makes the likelihood of them being used in crimes negligible.

The rights of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Seems pretty clear to me.

Anthony Tarell

self

Prosper, TX

I support! We should have right!

John Hueske, Mr.

John Hueske

Somerville, TX

I support this bill.

Charles Neely, Mr.

self/ retire RN

Wolfforth, TX

I support this bill strongly. As a lifetime shooting sports fan I have had to deal with the effects of large noises on my hearing . Several of my previous jobs required to wear hearing protection due to the high level of noise in the work area. Then add the effect of noise from the shooting sports and I currently now have to use special hearing protection and hearing aids. This will help reduce the effects of noise damage to an individual. In addition, many people interested in the shooting sports are more likely to enjoy them if they weren't exposed to high level noises which also intimidate them. A suppressor also reduces the felt recoil of the weapon making it easier for young and older shooters alike. I strongly encourage the bill to be passed and brought to a vote ending in its adoption.

Brandon Brown

Self/ law abiding gun owner

Humble, TX

I support this bill, for the simple reason that suppressors are nothing more than hearing protection enhancements, they do not completely muffle or silence the firearm in any way. Their sole purpose is to not deafen the people around you.

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Matthew Patrick

Self

Conroe, TX

Legalizing suppressors would save thousands of hunters hearing every year.

TIMOTHY RAKE

Home

GATESVILLE, TX

I fully support this bill!

Moises Perez

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill because suppressors are essential to having a safer experience with firearms. They're not quiet like in the movies, suppressors only lower the Sound by 30 decibels. Making a gunshot just barely hearing safe.

Many Texan firearm owners. Instructors. and enthusiast suffer from tinnitus and hearing loss due to their earmuffs being pushed by a rifle stock, breaking the seal and being exposed to 160 decibel gunshots, which is horrific given that the cdc states 135 db causes permanent hearing damage.

In many countries in Europe, Gun owners can buy suppressors as easily as buying a pack of gum, And in most cases are required to purchase one to keep the noise down on public ranges.

Suppressors in relation to crime is astonishingly low. The atf stated that the agency only recommended prosecution for 44 suppressor related crimes per year over the last decade. That means roughly .003 percent of suppressors owned by Americans are used in crimes each year.

So in conclusion, not only would this bill help Texans have a safer experience with firearms. It would create job opportunities for fellow Texans as incentivize more local firearm companies To expand their businesses. Benefiting our economy and livelihoods.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.
I wish y'all a blessed day.

God bless Texas.

Zachary Miller

Self

Texarkana, TX

I wholly support this bill.

Joshua Lofton

GOA

Jacksonville, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors protect against hearing loss. Also it makes hog hunting much easier.

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James Newman, Houston

Self

Houston, TX

I 100% support this

Alex Nelon

Self

Joshua, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly.

This bill gives an opportunity for Texan businesses and manufacturers to provide products that increase firearm safety without the hassle and delay of dealing with the ATF. Since firearm suppressors are already legal at the federal level, it is inconsistent with the ideals of the great state of Texas to allow a federal agency to charge exorbitant fees to Texans and dictate what is legal to possess in our state.

Michael Huddleston

self

Plano, TX

I support this bill. As a veteran I acknowledge the immense value of hearing protection.

1. Most European countries allow the usage and ownership of a gun suppressor, to some extent. In most European countries it is considered rude not to shoot with a suppressor. Those countries who currently don't allow ownership or usage are about to do so.
2. This is about hearing protection and noise pollution reduction.
3. Suppressors do NOT silence the sound completely, but only reduce it to achieve a more comfortable, safe sound level. It is time to acknowledge the FACTS that suppressors are about protecting the end user and those around them. You wear eye protection while shooting and it is common sense that those with you do as well. Why do we continue to let "Hollywood" data instead of facts prevail in this area of protecting Americans citizens.
4. Just as short barreled weapons have been demonized by liberal and media "facts" so have suppressors. Please move forward with legislation based upon facts and actual data from around the world which provides protection to the hearing of citizens and those around them exerting their Constitutional rights.

Humbly,

Michael E. Huddleston

Nolan Kunkel

Self

Jonesboro, TX

I think this is a fantastic bill that would build more revenue for Texas. Texas made suppressors and people purchasing those will keep money in state. I suspect it will be widely popular as most people do not want to be subject to a \$200 stamp on top of a \$600+ suppressor. I have high hope and support for this bill as an avid hunter. Montana has a bill similar to this and as far as I'm aware it's popular up there as well. It's time for Texas to follow the lead of other states and maintain why Texas is the Greatest State in this country. Pass this bill along with a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State to uphold the ideas that Texans before us modeled, so those after us can enjoy the same!

Michael Phillips

Self- retired Federal Employee

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Copperas Cove, TX

I support HB 957 and SB 542 regarding ownership of firearms suppressors. I am an Army veteran with hearing loss from my service. If I am able to use a suppressor, I could enjoy firing my weapons without further harm to my hearing. I might even be more able to contribute to reducing the wild hog population.

The CDC even recommends using a suppressor to protect hearing while firing weapons. As far as I know, there is no significant number of crimes committed with suppressed weapons because the suppressor adds bulk and weight to a firearm.

Debbie chan

self

MCKINNEY, TX

I support this bill. My husband is an active shooter and even with hearing protection his hearing is declining due to the amount of time he spends shooting. Easier access to suppressors will be a MAJOR health benefit.

Luke Blasi

Self Warehouse Associate

Fort Worth, TX

I support the passage of this bill. The federally placed legal hurdles imposed by the federal government serve to help the community in no capacity. Statistically suppressors are used in little to no crime and to my knowledge have not been used in mass shootings. The federal government does benefit however by charging \$200 for a tax stamp. All of this is important to consider in the passage of this bill because decriminalizing unregistered suppressors will help to improve the freedoms of law abiding citizens by exposing more people to them and normalizing them. It is also worth mentioning that many other countries require suppressors on firearms because they make shooting firearms safer for the hearing of the shooter and also reduce over all noise pollution in addition make firearms less intimidating to new shooters who are nervous about shooting firearms.

LeRoy Davis

Self

Big Spring, TX

I agree with this bill

John Jenning

self

Midland, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons;

- 1) Suppressors reduce the noise level of a gunshot to a level that will not cause permanent hearing damage. I have a suppressor on an AR-15 that I use for personal and home defense and in case I had to use it I wouldn't want myself or anyone else that was in the house to have sever hearing loss. In the event of a home invasion you may not have time to go find your earmuffs or ear plugs, get your firearm and get to a defensive position. Having a suppressor on a firearm would save time when seconds count.
- 2) In a hunting situation it is imperative that the hunters in a group can communicate with each other but they can't talk too loud so they don't spook the game. They also have to be able to hear the sounds of the animals they are hunting and wearing earmuffs severely reduces those capabilities. A suppressor on their firearms would definitely make hunting in a group much safer.

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3) The CDC recommends the use of a suppressor when shooting to protect one's health. It also reduces the recoil of the firearm making it easier to control, and thus, safer. And

4) I don't think that responsible law abiding gun owners should have to ask the government's permission and then wait 6 months to a year in order to use a device on their legally owned firearms that will make the firearm safer to use and protect their hearing.

Jason Ritenour

Myself.

Spring, TX

Please back and pass Bill HB 957 .

Thank you.

Ervin Light, Pastor

self

Llano, TX

I am for a person in Texas to poses a sound suppressor to be used for personal protection, family protection, in support of our police officers and other situations. Please consider this as a part of our 2nd amendment rights.

Benard DuPriest

self

tomball, TX

I fully agree in hopes to save my hearing.

Robert Frost

Self

Round Rock, TX

Suppressors whose primary purpose is to reduce the report of a shot from a firearm are devices of safety and enablement. To reduce a report from deafening at the shooter's ear and enable shooters to use firearms without further sustaining hearing damage, even with hearing protection, is an easy consideration and one that ties in well with general sporting safety. The fact that even much of Europe with its draconian firearms laws allows for the unregulated use of suppressors and the supposed "land of the free" is still hamstrung by archaic political institutions aimed at reducing civil liberties and targeting vulnerable populations is both ironic and sickening. I urge the House and Senate to take a step forward, even if out of party lines, to reduce the constraint on Americans, and dare I say more importantly, Texans, by voting "Yes" to HB 957.

Kellie Casey

Self self-employed

FORT WORTH, TX

I support this bill

(1) Hearing Protection for myself, and others, during target shooting would be fantastic without having to pay hundreds of dollars...and waiting a year +

(2) Protecting my hearing while hunting only makes sense

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(3) Being Neighborly - Being less disturbing to to others while enjoying shooting sports

There are Aviation Noise Abatement Regulations & Procedures - Motor Vehicle Noise Restrictions & Laws - And Many More

Every American Should Be Able to Lower the Report of Firearms

K.C.

Michael Hyde, Mr.

Self, Project Management

League city, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Use of suppressors should be encouraged as a means of hearing protection, not only for the shooter, but those around them. This is a true issue of safety, and Federal law is working against Texans being safe.
2. Currently the Federal government delays the receipt of property, already paid for, by about a year. This is unacceptable for anything, especially a muffler.
3. The Federal overreach needs to be curtailed and pushed back on. This is a step in the right direction.

Scott Sheaffer

Self, Engineer

Denison, TX

I am resoundingly FOR the HB 957 de-restricting made in TX suppressors. Supression is important to safe shooting, particularly for hearing safety. The commercial demand for suppressors is very high, despite obstacles created by the federal government. This new bill would support commerce and business in TX in a meaningful way. This bill would be an important step toward safety and better business in TX.

Nathan Harrington

None

Lufkin, TX

I support this bill. Any law that restricts the private ownership of firearms and firearm accessories is unconstitutional in nature and I support any action that limits any government's ability to limit my rights as a free citizen.

Manuel Gonzales

self

Austin, TX

The need for hearing safety greatly outweighs any fantasy of the eviler parts of our society becoming more deadly. Cars get used as weapons all the time, yet we do not get rid of mufflers, which are the exact functionality, purpose, and architecture of a suppressor that is used on a firearm, to try to help mitigate people being ran over because that would be a ridiculous conclusion to draw. Mufflers make city living more comfortable as well as a driving experience more comfortable. Suppressors make firearm usage way more manageable and practical for both hunting and sport usage.

Andrew Perez

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Self and self employed

Weslaco, TX

I support this bill. I was in a horrible car accident that damaged part of my hearing so hearing protection is very important to me. Having to pay a tax that can save the rest of my hearing is not Constitutional so with this bill I can save my hearing. Please support this bill

Jake Honeycutt, Dr

Self

Richmond, TX

I'm absolutely for the legalization of suppressors. They help protect hearing without making the gun completely silent (despite what movies would lead you to believe). They are no different to me than wearing hearing protection when you shoot.

James Molley

Concerned Citizen

Silsbee, TX

I believe that suppressors should be allowed to be purchased without a federal stamp, that process has only delayed citizens the right to protect their hearing by having a suppressor. Every citizen who has a clean criminal record should have the right to purchase a suppressor without all the red tape. I am writing my representative to co-sign this bill. Thank You.

Wayne Reynolds

Self and I'm a mechanic

Quinlan, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

One, to help protect the hearing of mine and other hunters.

Two, to help protect the hearing of mine or other members of my household in case of home invasion.

Third, we are allowed to make a homemade firearm without atf approval. We should also be able to make or purchase a suppressor without a tax or their approval.

Thank you,

Wayne Reynolds

Andrew Li

self - Engineer

Manor, TX

It would be great to see this go into effect. As an individual who lives on a small farm outside city limits with very old neighbors, this would allow me to hunt and enjoy the outdoors with minimal disturbance to my neighbors.

Steven Simon

Self, Technical Manager

Cibolo, TX

I absolutely support this bill.

Daniel Freeman

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Self

Bulverde, TX

It is an important accessory that allows us to protect our hearing, whether it be hunting, protecting home, or even just a range day. The time and money that it takes to get one of these accessories makes no sense and I support this bill.

Melissa Mortensen, Mrs.

Self

Selma, TX

I support HR957. Hearing protection is priceless and should not be regulated by the federal government.

Steven Nguyen, SPC

Proud TEXAN

San antonio, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL. I have hearing loss from the military and hearing is one of the most important things in life. This must be PASSED!

Joe Nguyen

Self

San Antonio, TX

We need this to pass

Jamicheal Brooks, SPC

Self

San Antonio, TX

Texans can have a suppressor without a tax stamp

Aiden Doan

self

San Antonio, TX

Suppressor should be allow to citizens without tax stamp. It's a tool that can be use to protect your hearing

Darcie Reynolds

Homemaker/Self

Quinlan, TX

I do support this bill for the following reasons:

For One,
the BILL will help to protect the hearing of mine and of other hunters.

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Secondly,
the BILL will help to protect the hearing of mine, and or, any other members of my household, in case of any home invasion.

Thirdly,
the BILL will show how it support's how we are all allowed to make a homemade firearm without
ATF approval,

&

We should also be able to make or purchase a suppressor without any TAX,

&

without their approval.

Thank you for your time,

Darcie Reynolds

Melisha Corbitt

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 957.

The occupational hazard limit is 140 decibels. A suppressor brings a firearm sound just under the hazard limit, reducing the risk of permanent hearing damage. It's more dangerous NOT to use a suppressor than to use one. A suppressor doesn't make it convenient for a criminal. A suppressor makes a gun heavier, longer, less concealable, and only reduces the sound 30 decibels.

This bill will repeal Texas criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations. (TX Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).) This bill will establish a class of "Made in Texas" suppressors that must be manufactured in Texas from Texas-made parts, must stay in Texas, and are exempt from Federal regulations. This bill will give a path to secure a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of this law before someone manufactures "Made in Texas" suppressors.

For these reasons I support HB 957.

Mark Brown, Mr.

Self, United States Army Retired

New Braunfels, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Aaron Rouse

Self

Houston, TX

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I have legally purchased suppressors for a number of years. I have done so because I suffer from high frequency hearing loss and certain tones set it off. Some oddly enough from certain caliber bullets and this is while using proper hearing protection. So the use of suppressors along with hearing protection eliminates this from happening. Suppressors do not make a gun silent by any means even though movies portray them as doing so. They simply are a baffling system to help minimize the loudness. I feel it is wrong for restrictions to be put in place on these. I feel that in respect to I believe it is the Commerce Clause that States should individually be allowed to decide if restrictions needed on things if they are made in that state and never leave that state. So I fully support this bill and hope a strong consideration is put into making it become a reality.

Ricardo Lombana

SELF/ American

San Antonio, TX

It's 2021, shooting unsuppressed is uncivilized.

Ernesto Cuevas

Self banker

San Antonio, TX

I say yes to HB 957

Paul Cyr

Cattledog Trade

San Antonio, TX

Please pass this bill for the rights and freedoms of Texans.

Rowan Sykes

Self

San Antonio, TX

This needs to be changed no need for it

Ash Small

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill. Not only will this bill help sportsman and women with protecting their hearing it also create a more pleasurable experience for new shooters. This will also help cut the noise of outdoor rages new housing developments. And lastly there shouldn't be a federal tax stamp that regulates firearm attachments. People need to understand that suppressors/silencers do not sound like what they do in the movies.

Kevin Sayes

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

Absolutely support this bill, both for its literal context and what it could represent. As an OEF veteran and active shooting

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enthusiast, suppressors make firearms safer and more controllable. With the best of the best suppressor, you may see a 40 dB (extreme top of line) sound drop, still leaving you well above 120+ dB. Nobody is firing rounds in public unnoticed like the media's portrayal of suppressors. This bill, maybe more importantly, could stand for the start of our state holding up the protections provided by the constitution and rejecting federal destruction of the American way of life. Texas has enough money, size, resources and people that we won't be stood up against. Who is Texans work very hard to achieve the kind of economy we have that allows for that. Respectfully let us reap the benefit

Scott DeSanti, Deputy

Self / Deputy Sheriff

San Antonio, TX

We don't need tax stamps for suppressors.

Ian Bounds

Self

RHOME, TX

Suppressors are not silencers. They do not make a Gunshot inaudible. Before making legislation, congress should not cite or associate Hollywood and Video games as evidence or reasoning to regulate a sound suppressing device. Suppressors help to make it not necessary to double layer hearing protection (ear buds under ear muffs) to bring down the decibel rating of firearms enough to where the recreational shooter and his observers will not develop hearing loss with only one of these. This protects the hearing of people who may not be aware of this. It also makes shooting safer (only in some cases where it reduces the sound level to below 140 decibels... this does not always happen) for those not wearing hearing protection. This also makes shooting less bothersome to neighbors in proximity. At the very most the process of buying a Suppressor should involve filling out a background check like with firearms. Criminals could easily make a Suppressor for alot less than what a designated one costs out of an oil filter! I am asking that the chambers of Texas take up this issue with the safety of Texans in mind. Remove the regulation of Suppressors. Keep Texans safe while participating in their constitutional rights!

Jesus Hernandez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB957 it's about time Texas starts stepping up for all our rights. We should be so lucky and thankful for living in this great state.

Jeff Eldridge

Self, Trust Manager

San Antonio, TX

I think the \$200 stamp tax is excessive for what a suppressor really is. The tax is a government way of taking from average Americans. The stamp tax should be repealed.

Destiny Nguyen

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally.

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Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.

2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.

3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Alex Cheng

Household

Katy, TX

The suppressor is both great for hearing protection and should be treated as any other firearm. It also great for training purposes and for defensive purposes when used indoors and enclosed spaces by not damaging the user's or others hearing if the firearm is used.

Nghia Nguyen

Self

San antonio, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.

2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.

3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Roque Garza

Myself

San Antonio, TX

Noise pollution is real, and we need a safe way to be considerate of other in and out of the range.

Bryan Nguyen, Sgt

Us army

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.

2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.

3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Hanh Le

Self

San Antonio, TX

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I support this bill. This must pass!

Henry Broadley

Self

San Antonio, TX

I'm a law abiding citizen who values our 2nd amendment and love the re reation of it as well. I think its ridiculous to charge for something that any lawful citizen can obtain. And the long wait period is absurd.

Tyler Robinson

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Gabriel Esquivel

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Seth Corder

Self

Aledo, TX

I 100% support this bill. As a lifelong hunter, sport shooter, Air Force Veteran and 2A supporter, making suppressors commonplace in Texas on has a benefit.

Ben Harris

Free thinking citizen

Rockwall, TX

Suppressors are mufflers for firearms. They don't work anything at all like they do in the movies. It's funny. If I drive a car without a muffler considered I'm a dumb redneck. I'm considered a public nuisance, and can be fined hundreds of dollars. If I

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shoot a gun with a muffler on it, I'm considered an assassin and can be put in prison and fined TENS UP TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS!! Unless of course I give \$1000 for a piece of metal that costs a few dollars to make. A making tax of \$200, fill out a confusing form that is nothing more than a standard NICS check used to buy any gun. Take a passport picture of myself, have my fingerprints taken, include it with a cover sheet provided after I pay the \$200 tax and send it to West Virginia. I also have to give a copy of the form to the local police. oh... and assuming the form isn't rejected by ATF 3-4 months after I submit it for the simple fact they don't like the picture. Or they lost the envelope I sent with the prints, etc. I GET TO START OVER AND RESUBMIT AT MY EXPENSE, AT THE BACK OF THE LINE, AND WAIT A YEAR AND A HALF TO GET APPROVAL!!

If you look at the "Science" they aren't used in crimes, they do lower the sound level to hearing safe and don't cause you or those around you to hurt your hearing. Although it's a FEDERAL CRIME to put a coke bottle over the end of your gun and fire it, the same sound reduction can be achieved. So it's safe to say if silencers are so handy to criminals, there would be a coke bottle with a hole in the bottom, or a pillow with bullet holes at every murder. Fun fact: The inventor Hiram Maxim fired a gun in the Oval Office to show the President his invention 100 years ago.

Trey Fox

Self

Kingsland, TX

I support HB 957 even though I am deaf that has a cochlear implants but without the suppressor, those rifles or pistols still can sting my left ear without a ear muffler, I don't want other firearms enthusiasts to suffer the hearing loss due to the no suppressor with their rifles, so that's why I support HB 957.

Curtis Wolverton

Self

Taylor, TX

We shouldn't have limitations on firearms.

David Giacoletti

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support this Bill.

1. Suppressors help to reduce hearing damage to a person's ears.
2. There is no supporting data that shows suppressors should be a regulated item as they do not "hide" the shot and there is no supporting data that shows how suppressors help criminals commit crimes.
3. Suppressors help to reduce recoil, this allows for people with disabilities to safely shoot firearms and feel more comfortable around firearms being shot.

Matthew Pappas

Self

Lewisville, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors are mufflers plain and simple. They are not "silencers" as portrayed by Hollywood. They reduce sound and muzzle flash to a manageable and less damaging level. They allow hunters to hunt more effectively and without hearing protection. They allow shooting sports participants and observers to do so without damaging their hearing. We require mufflers on cars and motorcycles. We put noise regulations on airplanes. We need to allow sound mitigating devices for hunters and sport shooters to utilize with far less restriction. They should not be regulated by the NFA and require a tax stamp and lengthy delay to acquire. They should be an item that individuals can build and use without the government breathing down their neck.

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This bill is long over due and I encourage you to pass it.

Michael Byrd

HB Construction Services

Pantego, TX

I support this Bill.

As a free people we have a duty to ourselves and our children who may not have the ability to withstand tyranny in government. It is the right of the people to keep and bear arms and that shall not be infringed. Otherwise, this does get worst.

Please stop singling out law abiding citizens. We want these things for a myriad of reasons, the upmost we pray never falls to us, though we prepare.

Safety and quality of life are desirable. When shooting it is courteous and desirable for those shooting and those near or not shooting to lessen the sound pollution commonly heard when using firearms.

Guillermo Trejo

Self

San Antonio, TX

Suppressors are not firearms. We do not pay a tax stamp for upgrading a firearm. No tax stamp but at the same time suppressors should be treated as a regular firearm purchase. If you pass a background check then we walk out with the suppressor just like a firearm. For now also suppressors can only be sold and bought in an FFL dealer only with a class 3 license. Also suppressors can not be sold/transferred/bought/reserved or paperwork filled out at gun shows. Only at a firearm store can any legal transaction for a suppressor be completed. Also if lost or stolen it needs to be reported to law enforcement immediately. All laws that apply to firearms apply to suppressors. Any felony, domestic violence (example) convictions cannot purchase a suppressor.

Lonnie Hopson

Self, retired

Gladewater, TX

I believe that hearing protection is paramount when shooting firearms. Since suppressors were placed on the NFA I can find no instances where they were used in the commission of a crime. They are obviously NOT a firearm, but an attachment to a firearm that reduces, not eliminate, the loudness of the discharge of said firearm. I believe that the Federal government has, and will continue to in the future, overstep their bounds. There are no legitimate reasons for not being able to purchase suppressors with no restrictions. There should be no fees, or special permits, required to own a suppressor. Please, make this bill/law a reality for us law abiding Texans.

Thank you,

Lonnie G Hopson

Cristobal De La Rosa

self

New Braunfels, TX

needs to pass..

Eric Brown

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

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1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Ryan Daly
Self-First Responder
Boerne, TX

I support this bill.

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2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Tyler Berryhill
Bandits Armory LLC
Von Ormy, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

chris gearhart
self, police officer
pipe creek, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Gil Crawford
self, retired
Livingston, TX

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Any suppressor manufactured in Texas and sold in Texas should be exempt from Federal regulation.

Joseph Martinez

Self (Process Engineer)

Corpus Christi, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place. The idea of suppressors being "movie quiet" and aiding greatly in crime is severely overstated, and de-regulating suppressors would have a negligible impact on crime.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Micah Guillory

"Self" and outdoor educator

Trinity, TX

I support this bill, HB 197, because I believe law abiding Texas citizens should be able to own deregulated firearm accessories such as the suppressor.

Suppressed guns protects users by bringing the decibels down on firearms, and can help reduce hearing loss. Many European countries do not regulate these items even close to what America has, and they are treated as an over the counter buy. It would be no different to the government or business if you bought a flashlight, a suppressor, or stock for your gun. They understand that these are hearing protection devices and not assassin accessories that Hollywood would like you to believe. For example there are only around 44 Suppressor crimes a year, and most if not all are from people owning unregistered items with very few being crimes.

While suppressing a firearm does reduce the decibels it does not so much as one might think as perpetuated by Hollywood a 9mm pistol has an average Db rating of 160 db and with a suppressor goes around 120 db which is equivalent to a jackhammer at a construction site. Restricting suppressors was a classist move from the government in 1934 as you needed to buy a stamp to own it legally which at the time was around \$200. However that price has not changed and if it were going by inflation would be roughly 3,925.58 in 2021. This was also put into law during the Great Depression I might add where everyday citizens were struggling with just surviving. Furthermore silencers were never argued to be banned by legislators during the hearings, and they were only ever really mentioned when they were reading the part of the bill that mentions restricting silencers. There was no mention of crime, how they work, what they do, or might do!

Bringing new business to Texas would increase revenue generated by new manufacturers who would surely move their business to Texas to support an audience size as large as Texas gun owners. It could create and bring new technology and new material sciences as this would be a groundbreaking piece of legislation that would unwrap the tight grips the federal government has over the great state of Texas. Suppressors are becoming more common as in 2011 there were around 285,082 registered suppressors in America and has increased to around 1,489,791 in 2018 and the number has only gone up.

Micah C.G.

Wesley Motloch

Self

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Burnet, TX

All laws regarding the restrictions on firearms and their parts are clear infringements on the second amendment. The constitution is the supreme law of the land and cannot be restricted by politicians.

Lance Puig

my family

Dallas, TX

I support this bill

1. Texans should be ruled by Texans.
2. Silencers are not a common factor in deadly homicides.
3. Subjugating another law to the Federal government could set a precedent.

Thanks

Lance

Benjamin Puig

self engineer

Dallas, TX

I support this bill because:

- 1) A suppressor is one of the few ways (if not the only way) for a pregnant woman to shoot a gun without injuring her unborn baby.
- 2) The NFA-required \$200 tax stamp financially burdens all gun owners, but is especially unfair to the less-privileged (who often cannot afford to obtain & use these hearing safety devices).
- 3) The lengthy & open-ended NFA suppressor tax stamp approval time of (typically) a year more is unnecessarily burdensome. And in the case of pregnant women, who need suppressors to protect their unborn children while shooting, the NFA is unconstitutional.
A healthy pregnancy lasts approximately 9 months. A pregnant woman doesn't have a year plus to wait for approval, and is thus stripped of her 2nd amendment rights by the NFA.

Ronald Rhee

Self

San Antonio, TX

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Edith Puig, Mrs

myself

Dallas, TX

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I SUPPORT THIS BILL

As a brain-tumor survivor who is now prone to regular migraines, a suppressor would allow me to resume my joyful hobby of shooting with my son. However, I cannot afford the \$200 tax (on top of the cost of a suppressor) that the NFA currently requires. And life is (sometimes literally) too short to wait a year plus to obtain a much-needed shooting safety device.

Brandon Lopez

Self

El Paso, TX

I support this bill because it shouldn't be an NFA item that requires Tax stamp, we should be able to own and create them without permission.

Paul Cooke

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I Support this bill HB 957 for three reasons, safety, safety, safety.

A suppressor has made training safer. New shooters are not as intimidated by the report (noise) of the rifle. A nervous new shooter can be a safety hazard on the firing line.

For firearms in moderate calibers hearing protection is not always necessary when shooting outside or in open spaces. This has made for a much safer environment when taking my kids and their cousins out to shoot. They HEAR my instructions and I hear their questions.

Movies silencers are a myth. It's extremely difficult to get a "silenced" firearm and the results of doing so are usually under performing weak ammunition. However, being a good neighbor is a benefit of a suppressor in all calibers. The sound of the sonic crack as a bullet breaks the sound barrier does not carry far, but the boom from a firearm discharging does carry a long distance and not everyone appreciates that sound pollution.

Please forward this bill to the floor for a vote. Even though I have NFA tax stamps for my suppressor, I am still treated like a criminal and I would like to see that stopped.

Alfredo Flores

Self

El Paso, TX

I support this bill as it will take them off the NFA and allow us the people to own silencers without subject to any regulations.

Roger Shellenberger

Self

Sherman, TX

I've had to wear hearing aids for a very long time due to a firearm being shot. I wouldn't have constant ringing in my ears for the rest of my life if suppressor had been readily available. Please help others save their hearing as it's too late for me. Thank you RS

Itzcoatl Vazquez

self

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Del Rio, TX

I support this bill.

Brian McKay

Self / Search & Rescue

Wimberley, TX

Now more than ever it is of the utmost importance that Texas completely recognize that the federal suppressor law is an out dated relic that was based on falsehoods. Suppression of firearms creates a hearing safe environment for all of those involved in shooting sports. Please grant Texans the freedoms we love, have fought and died for.

Charles Thompson, Mr

retired

Allen, TX

I wish to express my support for HB 957. I have an interest in a simple suppressor for my 22LR pistol but still even that suppressor is essentially the same price as the price of the pistol. But you have to add the \$200 tax/fine/fee for it. That is a 50% tax, 50%??? for what is a muffler. Then add on a near year wait before I can even think I might be the suppressor because of the background check that must be done for EACH item purchased. Not a single background check which clears me but every time. I passed my concealed carry check in less time and less cost. I hope I can get and deserve your support for this bill.

James Burch

SELF

Santa Fe, TX

I support this bill that repeals the Texas ban on owning suppressors that don't have a Federal tax stamp and allows Texans to manufacture, sell, and own a "Made in Texas" suppressor that is not subject to Federal regulations.

Clayton Westberry

Self

Canton, TX

I support this bill and believe that suppressors will help with the health and hearing of firearms owners as well as stop an infringement of our rights.

Scott Wilson

Self

Orange Grove, TX

I'm not sure why suppressors are more regulated than the guns they go on. That makes no sense. You can't hurt anyone with a suppressor, but you can lose you're hearing without one. This should be as simple a Bill as any Texan could possibly want passed. The many shooters for fun we have in Texas, hearing protection should be paramount. Show me the crimes where a suppressor was used and maybe I'll think otherwise.....but you can't because none has been committed while using a suppressor on a weapon. Common sense needs to make a comeback in Texas

Kevin Bence

Self-handyman

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Tyler, TX

HB 957 is an important bill that needs to be passed and put to good use. Disabling the regulations currently applied to firearms would be a great step towards winning the gun battle we are currently in, especially here at the state level. The current regulation is outdated and developed by those who do not have the slightest idea how suppressors operate. Many think that a suppressor can make your gun nearly silent, which is a misnomer. Television and video games over exaggerate the capabilities of a suppressor in such an unrealistic way and it bleeds into the minds of the public, both citizens and elected officials. They do not do make your gun silent, they simply reduce the amount of decibels that are produced by the slowing of gas out the end of the barrel. The reason we hear a loud bang when a gun is fired, is due to temperature change and expansion of gas leaving the end of a barrel. All a suppressor does is slows that release of gas out the end of the barrel using various chambers that the gas has to go through. This causes the expansion of gas to be "thinned" out, which creates less noise. It is quieter, but not silent, and protects ears from damage. There is no reason to have regulations on such technology, it is simply regulated because of the false information created by Hollywood and the game industry. People believe they make guns silent, and thus they create laws accordingly. This is understandable, even when based on a false premise. People just need to be educated to understand the truth, and the laws should reflect those truths. I hope this gives those reading a little more education on firearm suppressors, and will be willing to support this bill as well. Thank you.

Nicolas La Lanne

Self

San Antonio, TX

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Michael Belsick

self

Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR HB 957. There is a mistaken belief that firearm suppressors are "silencers" making it possible to shot someone without making any noise. That only happens in the movies that can also make "super heroes with super powers" seem real. Suppressors are not silencers. However, they can greatly reduce the amount of noise created by a firearm. There are millions of Americans that own and use firearms for different reasons. A suppressor reduces the loudness closer to federal safe hearing noise levels. Since guns are here to stay, suppressors make them safer to use. Thank you

Devin Grider

Self - Fire Captain

Tennessee Colony, TX

There should be NO regulation of noise suppressors.

Why should citizens have to pay outrageous taxes and prices to protect their hearing? A supressor does not aid in crime or make a firearm any more lethal. It merely protects the hearing of the firearm user and those nearby.

Regulating and requiring tax stamps for supressors would be like requiring a \$200 tax stamp before you could put a muffler on your car.

End ALL regulation of suppressors and let Texans protect and preserve our hearing!

Gerald Migely

self, retired

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Kerrville, TX

I support this bill. I have a friend who, when he was a teenager, was involved with some of his friends, in an incident where the police were involved. The teenagers were detained but never arrested. Fast forward 55 years and my friend makes application to purchase a suppressor. He was denied as his name came up as being involved in an incident as a teenager. This is government gone amuck. This bill will allow my friend, a law abiding citizen, to legally purchase and use a suppressor in the State of Texas. Please support HB 957.

Tiffany Collins

Self

Richmond, TX

I support this bill for these reasons:

#1, to help protect the hearing of myself and other hunters.

#2, to help protect the hearing of myself or other members in my household in case of a home invasion.

#3, we are definitely allowed to make a homemade firearm without the atf approval. Also we should also be able to make or purchase a suppressor without tax or their permission.

Justin Mortensen

Self

Selma, TX

I support this bill!!

Christopher Elmore

Self - Manager

McKinney, TX

I support this bill.

Many people equate a suppressor to criminal activities, but that is not the case. The actual noise reduction level is roughly 20% (~30db). This is just enough to lower the decibels (db) below the 140 db level (the hazard limit)

The list of benefits is extensive: Harder to conceal, reduced chance of hearing damage, ability to communicate more easily with those around you, etc.

Thank you

Leonard Elbon

Myself and other Freedom loving voters

Magnolia, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors cut down on noise pollution and hearing loss to hunters and sportsmen. Gun rights are my number 1 hot button issue that determines my vote, support and donations.

Jesse Cohen

Self, Police Officer

Tyler, TX

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I am in favor of this bill for the following reasons:

1. I have been a City Police officer for 5 years. I have never seen or heard of a situation in which a suppressor was used in a crime. Crime statistics support my observations showing that suppressors being used in crime is extremely rare.
2. Even if suppressors were more commonly used in crime, that is no excuse to place these arduous restrictions on everyone.
3. The current restrictions on suppressors are an example of laws that only punish law abiding people. If you simply don't care about the law, it's easy to make or get a suppressor.
4. Suppressor regulations are an example of punishing otherwise law abiding people with a sort of pre crime. Punishing people for possessing a simple, but useful firearms accessory because it may possibly at some point be used in a crime is ridiculous. This bill is a critical step in the right direction.

Thanks!
Jesse Cohen
903-730-0865

Blake Higdon, Mr
Self: post secondary student
The Woodlands, TX

Firearms silencers are an essential component to the maintenance of a well regulated civilian militia in Texas. Every developed military in the world is aiming to equip standard front line infantry with silencers, making them a component of the arms outlined in the second amendment to the United States Constitution and Article one section 23 of the Texas Constitution. Silencers are now legal for white tail and feral hog hunting in Texas, and serve to protect the user from permanent hearing damage, as hunters rarely wear other forms of hearing protection that are uncomfortable and limit the ability to detect game. As a current owner of highly regulated silencers, I can vouch that they make firearms much easier to shoot for inexperienced shooters, especially women and others of small frame, which could potentially allow them to defend their homes with much greater confidence. Current regulation makes silencers unobtainable to all but the rich, as was intended with the initial legislation. Silencers have never played a significant role in crime, but they have the potential to play a large role in fighting chronic hearing damage and protecting Texas residents.

David Roper
self - degreed engineer
Austin, TX

The technology to remove the ear damaging sound pressure levels of shooting firearms is so clearly needed and available (ie sound suppressors) but over regulated by an ancient federal statute and the bureaucracy that administers it. Anything that protects the quality of human life and health of an individual who participates in the recreational or professional use of firearms should be freely open to use - not taxed and wrapped in layers of paperwork and ridiculously long federal "approval processes".

I fully support this bill and the hugely positive impact it would have for firearms users and the statewide business base

Robin Hayes, Eastland Co Chair/SREC SD 28
Eastland Co Republicans
Eastland, TX

I am in favor of this bill because it repeals the Texas ban on owning suppressors that don't have a Federal tax stamp and allows Texans to manufacture, sell, and own a "Made in Texas" suppressor that is not subject to Federal regulations.

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Thank you

Cade Horton, Mr

Self

The woodlands, TX

Suppressors are a tool aiding in hearing protection, hunting, and safety. Our military is using them to help protect the hearing of our infantry. As we are maintaining a well regulated militia it stands to reason this tool should be easy to attain and not only for the rich.

Teri Horne

Self/ OCT:WOMEN

Quitman, TX

My name is Teri Horne I live in Wood County, and I Support this bill hb957, having to have a tax stamp ect for an accessory that will help lessen the sound for those with hearing devices would be greatly beneficial. A suppressor ,contrary to what some think does not completely silence a firearm, as the movies portray. It simply muffles the sound.

Nathan Fleer, Dr.

Self PhD Chemist

Katy, TX

I support this bill. If you are concerned about actual gun safety, deregulation of suppressors is a good place to start. Suppressors do not function as they are portrayed in the movies. They merely take the 160 decibel (on average) sound and reduce it below the 140 decibel mark (typically to around 130 decibels) that is considered hazardous. Hearing protection is still a must at 130 decibels; however it is more effective. Many countries either require, or strongly recommend suppressor use for safety and consideration of others, so suppressors are readily available for purchase. It is also beneficial for people who could potentially suffer hearing loss (such as my brother) and those who may incur an injury from recoil. We need to make suppressors available to be produced in state for safety and to prevent government overreach as they are not permitted to dictate commerce within state borders.

Owen Graham

Self

Kerrville, TX

From a constituent who is nearly deaf. from shooting sports over a lifetime, I strongly encourage passage of this bill.

Shawn Archuleta

Self, FPC, GOA

League City, TX

Firearms silencers are an essential component to the maintenance of a well regulated civilian militia in Texas. Every developed military in the world is aiming to equip standard front line infantry with silencers, making them a component of the arms outlined in the second amendment to the United States Constitution and Article one section 23 of the Texas Constitution.

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Current regulation makes silencers unobtainable to all but the rich, as was intended with the initial legislation.

Silencers have never played a significant role in crime, but they have the potential to play a large role in fighting chronic hearing damage and protecting Texas residents.

Fundamental individual rights endowed by the creator are not privileges to be taxed, tracked, and regulated by the state. Every individual has a right to protect him or herself and there is no implement of protection that compares to a firearm.

The delays and fees associated with the carry permit system can be a death sentence to those under immediate personal threat or facing a sudden surge in crime, both of which the state routinely fails to protect her citizens from.

The registry created and maintained for the permit system will likely be used in the future as a road map for confiscation as the political climate nationwide continues to shift at a rapid pace.

The carry of firearms is already restricted at sensitive locations, and criminals are not leaving their guns at home to get a license.

Regrettably the issue of police unions must be addressed: we've heard the phrase "this makes our officers less safe." Is it not the job of the police to accept less safety in the name of keeping private citizens safer? Officers are often notified of carry permits which in some cases make them immediately hostile, and dangerous to the individual in question. Not all officers are the perfect arbiters of peace we desire.

When police unions express support for limiting the heavenly ordained right of individuals to maintain their own security, in the name of removing hazards for officers, they must be soundly rejected by a freedom loving populace and legislature.

Keller Hughes

Self, hunting guide

Three rivers, TX

As a professional hunting guide, suppressors make a significant difference for hunters and shooters. They make firearms much

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safer in terms of hearing protection. I know many older hunters suffering from hearing loss from a lifetime of hunting and shooting unsuppressed guns. Suppressors are helping the next generation of hunters and shooters from dealing with the problems our grandfathers and fathers are living with. The deregulation of suppressors will only help hunters and shooters in Texas and keep them safer. They also help bring more people into shooting sports, they reduce the loud muzzle blast and help manage recoil. They can be very useful in self defense situations that could cause serious hearing damage. Women and children also benefit greatly from suppressor use. They make training and practice with firearms safer because they're quieter.

Jason Mejia

Self

Converse, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Audie Nelson

Self - Retired Captain Texas Game Warden

Bastrop, TX

I support this bill. The federal governments control on taxing sound reducing devices is a stumbling block to Texans and Americans. The misinformation that a suppressor is silent is Hollywood hype. The reduction of noise to provide hearing protection is a great positive. Suppressors have very seldom been used in a crime. Bastrop County recently had an article in the local paper blasting peoples use of their own property for shooting. The County Judge and local prosecutor blasted the legislature for the acreage rules that allow owners to shoot on their own property. The judge even suggested that if people want to shoot that they should go out and buy 30 or 40 acres so as to not bother their neighbors. This foolish thinking that sound does not travel over another 15 acres is laughable. We would be better off if people did not have to pay a tax, wait over a year, and deal with the vast paperwork and record keeping. Why wouldn't we want lower noise pollution and hearing safety. Other countries with much stricter gun control allow the over the counter purchase of suppressors. If this wasn't a left leaning talking point several federal agencies would require a suppressor on a gun or any high decibel sound device.

Emilie Norrell

Self

Canton, TX

I support this bill

William Banuelos, Sfc

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

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leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.

3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Lee Latino

Self

Austin, TX

Suppressors, or “silencers” as you may know them have been used in a variety of movies and TV shows that have given us an idea of their purpose and functionality.

Of course if your only source of information for passing legislation is that of movies and TV shows, clearly there is an issue.

Anyone who has actually used or been around a suppressor, knows that it in fact does not completely silence the weapon so the argument that it makes it more desirable for criminals is completely bogus.

That being said, what it DOES do is significantly reduce the decibels of sound you are exposed to when firing the weapon. This is a very effective tool to protect the users hearing, spectators hearing, and does not disturb neighbors. This argument was made in the hearing protection act that has been so desperately trying to receive recognition but instead is buried in the dirt.

Lastly, a suppressor being an accessory to a firearm, does not constitute as an arm. Although we have the “right to bear arms” despite its relentless infringements, a suppressor does not in any way constitute as an “arm.”

A suppressor alone can not harm anyone nor can it make a gun “more deadly” therefore it makes absolutely no sense that it is regulated in the same exact way as an NFA registered firearm. Why would I go through the same process I would normally go through for a short barreled rifle, for something that isn’t even a firearm in the slightest.

In our world of dying freedoms, in our world of growing domestic tensions, please consider extending this right back to your people. The right we were born with, the right that we have held so proudly since 1776, the right that will not be infringed.

Kaitlin Kelly, Ms.

Gun Owners Of America and the US Concealed Carry Association as a "Life Member", of the GOA and an annual membership of the USCCA

Dallas, TX

- Even though I don't own a suppressor for a firearm. I believe that it is an integral part for the purpose of Hunting rifles and shotguns and handguns.
- Secondly, Any and all LEGALLY purchased and owned firearms come under the protection of The Second Amendment rights to lawful ownership of firearms and this US Constitutional right guaranteed UNDER the Second Amendment of the US Constitution is not to be infringed upon- period!!!!
- Thirdly, A suppressor that is LEGALLY manufactured in the State of Texas, rather for the purpose of not wanting to disturb the wildlife during a state hunting season should be considered as legal!
- Fourthly, ANY Texas Commissioned Law Enforcement Agency or officer, deputy, or county constable should be able to purchase and then use it for the purpose of defending him/her from violent criminals and/or international terrorists from a foreign nation (i.e. Islamic extremist terrorists organization members of a known terrorist organizations that have illegally infiltrated the USA at any and all times. Too lawfully defend themselves and others from a mass shooting incident anywhere in Texas! This should also include any State of Texas, commissioned city or county reserve officers and deputies and State of Texas Department of Public Safety officers that are serving as active or reserve status to defend themselves with a suppressor on their duty and personal privately owned firearms in the use of defending the USA against foreign and domestic tyranny and/or invasion from outside of the USA. Too include unconstitutional laws that have been declared by this current US president Joe Biden.

Lastly, the use of a suppressor on a semi automatic rifle or handgun should not be considered to be illegal UNDER The Second Amendment rights to lawful ownership of firearms---Period! End of story! UNDER The U.S. document known as The Declaration of Independence. It VERY clearly states that We The People Of The USA, are guaranteed certain inalienable rights to Life Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness. Which is not to be infringed upon! Whether a suppressor is or has been manufactured for sale through a licensed Federal Firearms licensed dealership or someone that has safely manufactured a suppressor for the

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purpose of EITHER personal self-defense, for Law Enforcement Agency officers, County Sheriff's Office deputies and State of Texas, Department of Public Safety officers and to include The Texas Rangers! And for any active and reserve US military members and Veterans of the US military forces be it a retired member(s), and honorably discharged member of the US military forces that also includes anyone in the US Reserve and The National Guard for the sole purpose of defending this USA from BOTH foreign invading militaries and unconstitutional "Red Flag", ANTI SECOND AMENDMENT legislation in the State of Texas.

Which includes the unconstitutional Executive actions and/or executive orders of THIS current, fraudulent J.B.!

Javier Andrade, SSG

Myself

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

1. As a lifelong firearms enthusiast I have spent the majority of life on the shooting range. Both professionally and recreationally. Suppressors give the operator and those near by added hearing protection.
2. Suppressors are unnecessarily overregulated, and nearly impossible to acquire without an over bearing process. This ultimately leaves gun owners being intimidated by the ATF process alone. This bill would give Texans the ability to finally obtain a suppressor without the intimidating process that is currently in place.
3. This bill would also provide economic growth to local small business.

Dana McCarver

self Medical Coder

Tyler, TX

I support this bill. Our right to bear ALL arms are guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. ANY infringement is unconstitutional and must be protected by our state government.

Brandon Jones

self - engineer

Pearland, TX

I support this bill because:

1. The U.S. and Texas Constitutions acknowledge and protect citizens right to keeping and bear arms.
2. Suppressors provide increased hearing protection for the user, in the same way a muffler dampens the exhaust noise from an internal combustion engine.
3. Anything produced and kept within the boundary of the State of Texas should be exempt from commerce clause regulation or taxation.

Crystal Main

self

North Richland Hills, TX

I support this bill. The federal government should not be allowed to regulate any products sold and used in our state.

F. Brice Hersom

Self, Attorney

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Willis, TX

I support this bill, as regulation of suppressors serves no legitimate public interest. The use of suppressors protects hearing and provides a better experience when exercising our Second Amendment Rights.

Timothy Kelley

Self

Deer Park, TX

I am in support of HB 957. The suppressor will aid in protecting hearing of shooters, both at the range and in the field. I strongly support passage of this bill.

Marshall Rigney

Self

Corinth, TX

Suppressors are incredibly useful accessories for firearms. While they do not make firearms silent, they remove a significant amount of concussion that could cause permanent hearing damage to the user and those around. Most firearms are so loud, they need in-ear and over-ear hearing protection to be used at the same time. Suppressors just remove the need for one of those. By deregulating suppressors, you'd be helping people stay safe. You'd also help reduce noise pollution. Suppressors keep neighboring ranchers happy when hunting hogs and other pests at night.

Cynthia Kelley

Self

Deer Park, TX

I am in favor of HB 957 and encourage passage of the bill.

Clayton Gage

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Suppressors, while hardly ever used in crimes, have been proven to prevent chronic hearing loss for hunters and avid target shooters.

Brandon Dansfiell

Self

Tomball, TX

I support this bill because I care about what hearing I have left. As a disabled vet with hearing loss I need as many ways to protect my hearing as I can get. Suppressors are not movie magic silent like many believe, they are not tools for an assassin, they are realistically too loud for that. However, they are quiet enough not to cause permanent damage to the user's hearing. Suppressors are already expensive and they don't work for every caliber so you have to buy more than one, and an extra \$200 tax stamp with a one year wait time is too unreasonable.

John Swicegood

Self, Truck Driver

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Denton, TX

I support this bill because hearing protection should not be reserved for only the wealthiest people, my Constitutional Rights should not be held ransom by a Federal Tax and the increased demand for "Made in Texas" suppressors will be good for small businesses already manufacturing suppressors and encourage new production which will in turn provide more options and more affordable prices for Texas consumers.

Alicia Bell

Self

Kerrville, TX

My name is Alicia Bell, I represent myself and I am in SUPPORT of HB957

This bill would declare that firearm suppressors manufactured in Texas from Texas parts and "Made in Texas" suppressors are not subject to Federal regulations. A suppressor does not silence a gun but merely muffles the sound of a gun enough to reduce the risk of permanent hearing damage. Without a suppressor, an average gunshot is around 160 decibels, and even one shot can cause permanent hearing damage. Adding a suppressor brings the decibel level down to the mid-130's, which is under the occupational hazard limit of 140 decibels set by the CDC.

Guillermo Padilla Jr

Self Musician

New Braunfels, TX

All Texans should be able to own suppressors without tax stamps!

Kasey Hosler

Self

Conroe, TX

I myself am an active hunter, competition shooter, and lover all all things firearms. Suppressors are extremely useful in mitigating hearing loss and permanent hearing damage by shooters and those who are around shooters. The federal regulation of suppressors would vastly improve the quality of life for shooters looking to protect themselves and the people around them from permanent hearing damage

Adam Zahradnik

Self-representing, Mechanical Engineer

Port Arthur, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons: 1) Suppressors are not dangerous to anyone and should not be regulated as they currently are. 2) Suppressors are beneficial to hearing protection, a real issue for many Texans (especially VETERANS). 3) This bill would be a great stimulant for the Texas economy. Suppressor manufacturers would be HIGHLY incentivized to move to Texas and the industry would boom.

Don Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support hb957.

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Adam Fox
self - video producer

Trophy Club, TX

I support this bill and want this bill to pass into law for the following reasons.

1. Suppressors greatly reduce hearing loss. Much like a car requires a muffler, a suppressor acts the same for a firearm. It muffles the sound.
2. It helps maintain greater control of a firearm. The additional weight and reduction of muzzle flip allows for greater control creates safer shooting conditions.
3. It eliminates needless restrictions on gun owners that go beyond the Second Amendment's written declaration.

William Hopkins
Self - FFL and Instructor

Dripping Springs, TX

I encourage you all to support this bill - Not only does it disallow overreach by the federal government on regulating intrastate commerce, but Suppressors make owning, shooting, training and using firearms safer and more efficient, with less impact to surrounding land-owners, wildlife, etc.

Thank you very much.

John Edeen, MD
Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership
Shavano Park, TX

I support HB 957. Silencers, suppressors, gun mufflers are an old simple technology to reduce the harmful noise signature of the report of a firearm discharge by between 20 and 30 decibels (dB). Any single noise exposure of 120 dB or greater causes permanent and irreversible sensory-neural hearing loss. Often the person shooting has earmuffs or ear plugs, but others nearby may not. They may inadvertently be exposed to dangerous levels of noise and suffer hearing loss. I, personally, have had the stock of my rifle bump my over the ear hearing protection, causing a loss of seal, and resulting in ringing ears and I am sure some permanent hearing loss. In Europe, it is considered rude to fire a rifle without a suppressor. They can be purchased over the counter, without having to go through a background check, wait for 6-9 months and pay a \$200 tax. Suppressors should never have been placed on the National Firearms Act restricted item list.

At Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, a group of 4 Ear, Nose and Throat surgeons, including two that specialize in sensory neural hearing loss wrote a white paper supporting the removal of suppressors from the NFA. I include a link to both this paper and the executive summary. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

<https://drgo.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/DRGO-HPA-White-Paper-03-27-17.pdf>.

<https://drgo.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Executive-Summary-DRGO-HPA-Position-Paper.pdf>

John Edeen, MD
Membership Director
www.drgo.us

Andrew Thompson
Self, Attorney
Harker Heights, TX

I support this bill and would ask that you do the same. I am an avid outdoorsman and having the ability to easily access suppressors would be a great benefit to all Texans. It will obviously benefit the shooters by making their sports and activities

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safer and healthier by reducing their noise exposure. It will benefit people who have property that others shoot on or near by reducing their noise pollution. Finally, it would benefit local manufacturers by providing an incentive for Texans to buy from Texans. Please support this bill!

Jeffrey Brooks, Mr.

Self, environmental scientist

Tyler, TX

Suppressors are a safety measure discouraged by the federal government. Suppressors allow hunters to retain their sense of hearing while searching for prey. Suppressors reduce hearing loss incurred at shooting ranges. These "firearms" reduce the environmental impact of guns. Excessive regulation of suppressors by the NFA is unconstitutional, and wrong. How many other safety devices take 6+ months to receive after purchase, and incur an extra 20% tax (NFA tax stamp)?

Leroy Wilson

Self

Coppell, TX

There is no reason I should have to wait months for the Federal government to verify my identity and pay a ridiculous tax. I have had a back ground check in 2 States and have a driver's license that clearly show I am law abiding and have a clear identity. Please keep Texas as the forefront of personal liberty, the very reason I chose to move to this great State.

Doris Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support this bill

William M Roosa, Mr

Self

Hutto, TX

Please remember your oaths to the constitution, esp the part of the 2nd Amendment SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED UPON. The suppressors will improve the ability to shoot indoors as in protecting hearing of everyone. It will also suppress the impact of noise while hunting and not disturb the local neighbors some of which suffer from PTSD from serving to protect this great nation.

Alejandro Labanzat

SELF

The Woodlands, TX

Allowing law abiding firearm owners to utilize a suppressor would greatly benefit hearing protection. It would allow for more comfortable recreational use of firearms. It would also make it safer as communications among student and instructors would not be impaired. There is a common misconception that suppressors eliminate all sound, such as depicted in Hollywood movies. This is not true but it does reduce enough noise to help in preventing hearing damage while training or hunting with with a firearm. Please vote YES and eliminate one more useless law. Thank you.

Benson Chrisner

Self

Belton, TX

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Please allow suppressors, they do not make firearms silent. But they do reduce noise pollution

David Welling

Self

Austin, TX

I fully support the language introduced in HB 957 and urge that Texas assert its police powers under the US Constitution's 10th Amendment.

I urge this HB 957's passage as a means to reclaim the authority for all commerce that is wholly within the state of Texas.

Ruth York

Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, Texas Family Defense Committee, and myself (Direct Sales)

Cisco, TX

We support HB 957. Because suppressors bring gunfire down about 30 decibels, to just under the the occupational hazard limit, they protect the hearing of the shooter and others nearby. It is not preferred by criminals because it makes the firearm harder to conceal. Thus, the federal statutes and fees are not protective, but burdensome. This bill moves us closer to practicing our second amendment rights more safely.

Please support HB 957.

ZACHARY WILLIAMS, Firearms instructor

Texans

Lewisville, TX

Silencers, if anything, should be treated much like any other accessory to firearms. The term "silencer" its self is a very misleading name due to the fact that it doesn't actually SILENCE the report of a gun going off, rather, limits the expansion of gasses much like a car muffler, to a hearing safe, or close to hearing safe level. Being someone who is around guns a lot, as well as guns with silencers, and trains law enforcement, the report from a "silenced" rifle is still quite noticable, dare I say loud (around 132db). Silencers as a whole are enjoyed by hunters, sportsmen, for home defense to limit the deafening blows of gunshots, as well as law enforcement for similar purposes. Silencers also allow folks who may shoot at a range close to neighborhoods to respect the noise of the area. There is a phrase that has been used to defend the rights of gun owners and that phrase is "in common use." Every single day there are more and more form 4's filed for individuals to go through the long waiting game (a year or more) of purchasing a silencer, and its nonsensical to have to follow this outdated process feom the 31's. Other states have moved away from federal regulation of Marijuana, I don't see why Texas cant create a means for gun owners to also further enjoy our god given freedom to choose our paths.

Henry Mortimer

Self. Construction Superintndent

Aubrey, TX

I believe that suppressors should not be regulated. They are an advancement for shooting to minimize hearing loss with/without hearing protection.

Oscar Springer

Myself self-employed

Schertz, TX

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I support HB 957 by Oliverson. We need the ability to use suppressors in order to prevent permanent hearing damage. Especially when an individual may not have the moment to use ear protection in a self defense situation. I can see how this would greatly help younger and elderly people at the same time.

Becky Brown, Ms

Self

Irving, TX

I support HB957. This bill repeals TX Criminalization of suppressor possession apart from Federal regulations Tx Penal Code 46.05(a)(6).)

Thomas Kane

Self -- Environmental Consultant for Manufacturers

Floresville, TX

I support HB 947, which repeals the Texas ban on owning Suppressors that don't have a Federal tax stamp, and allows Texas to manufacture, sell, and own a "made in Texas" suppressor not subject to federal regulations:

-- HB 947 will help to foster Texas manufacturing and create more jobs for Texans.

-- HB 947 will set limits on Congress's intruding into Texas affairs. Congress often uses so-called "interstate commerce" as an excuse to poke its nose into Texas concerns that have nothing to do with other states.

-- HB 947 will help build up a strong Texas manufacturing culture of firearms safety, including manufacturing of items by Texans for Texans.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

tk

Ivan Springer

Myself self-employed contractor

Schertz, TX

I support HB957. I believe that people should be able to use a suppressor if they decide to. This bill will make some headway in accomplishing that.

Allison Heyward

Self

Cibolo, TX

I support this bill because for someone like me who has issues with ringing in my ears having the option of being able to not have to jump through hoops to get a suppressor for my firearms and have to wait a long time to get permission to have. The fact that it can also be made in Texas which will stimulate the Texas economy. As a proud Texan I'd love to have a made in Texas suppressor. This will scream Freedom .

Craig Andress

Self

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Houston, TX

I support this bill as a former safety engineer and the knowing importance of protecting you hearing. Since a loss of hearing causes such an impact of people's lives. If someone is kicking down my door I don't have time to get hearing protection and that's the last thing on my mind when I'm trying to defend my family.

Paul Yamarick

self, engineer

Moulton, TX

In favor of HB957. The use of a firearm for self defense in a home is common and appropriate. The firearm discharge noise level in an enclosed room will cause permeate damage. The obtaining of a suppressor should be allowed to be easy to obtain and readily available.

Please vote for and out of the State Affairs Committee. Thank you.

Ferrando Heyward

Self

Cibolo, TX

I support this bill because as a retired Naval Fight Officer and understanding that hearing is important. I have some hearing loss because I was exposed to many unsafe noise decibels during my Naval career. So being able to purchase a suppressor without all the hoops to jump through as well as make firing a firearm safe for me. It keeps me from experiencing ringing in my ears and causing my equilibrium to be off. I may not always be at the range to have ear protection

Katherine Dansfiel

Self

Tomball, TX

I am for this Bill I believe that everyone should have the right to protect their hearing and to politely protect the hearing of others around them, unfortunately suppressors/silencers are not actually silent but they can at least help to minimize the noise pollution that firearms inherently create. Please pass this Bill so that the people don't have to pay a tax and wait for approval to save their hearing.

Kevin Wells

self IT Compliance

Trenton, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors make use of our firearm much safer on our hearing. This is very important in self/home defense situations. Hesitating to fire due to fear of damaging a loved one's hearing can lead to the attacker overtaking the lawful owner and using it against them. While this isn't the most important and not touching on the true nature of how this violates our rights, it's not something shared often enough. Having children, this plays a part in what I train them on and what I reach for during self-defense.

James Whitley, Mr.

Self

Haltom City, TX

I'm in full support of this suppressor law. They aid in protection of the ears and do not fully silence the notice of the firearm. There is no reason these should require government control. It's just another tax and a way to make citizens register the property

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used on firearms with the government. Support this bill and support your citizens. Thank you. James Whitley

Sylvia Coulson
Self Dietitian
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. These should not be a crime.

Merrick Myers
Self
Argyle, TX

I support HB 957, there is no reason a device that protects the hearing of yourself and others should be regulated the same as a firearm under the 1934 NFA.

Caleb Guntree
Self
Spring, TX

This bill should be a no brainer to pass for the Texas legislature. Suppressors have long been vilified as a tool of assassins when in reality they are a useful tool for hunters, hobby shooters, and even home defense.

Even with adequate hearing protection gunshots can cause damage to the ear due to the sheer concussion of a gunshot. Over time a person can lose their hearing little by little without ever experiencing pain because they are wearing protective plugs or muffs. Suppressors are a good tool to protect the hearing of both the shooter and any bystanders at a gun range or hunting blind.

They are also very useful to prevent hearing loss in a situation of self defense in the home. A resident may not have the time to grab ear protection in the case their home is broken into. There have been cases of people instantly losing their hearing after a self defense shooting and being shot by law enforcement simply because they couldn't hear them. Suppressors could help this.

Suppressors are a tool for hearing protection as well as reducing noise pollution. The NFA has only ever been a way to tax people for rights they should readily have without having to pay hundreds of dollars for it. I strongly believe HB 957 should be passed by the Texas legislature due to the protective nature of suppressors. Thank you.

Joanne Castleberry
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I am a single mom of 4 children living in the country. Not only do I need to protect my family from possible intruders but also from dangerous feral hogs. A suppressor greatly increases my chances to be successful in protecting my family and property from dangerous animals of all kinds.

Johhny Higdon, United States citizen
Free Americans
The woodlands, TX

The Constitution doesn't say anything about a permit. The constitution is the permit

Clark Veylupek
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Myself

Del Rio, TX

This bill is important to me because a suppressor would help preserve my hearing.

Karen Lane

self/retired

Hewitt, TX

The purpose and meaning of "suppressor" has been misconstrued by the opposition. A gun being less loud is not the same thing as silencing it; it is simply done to protect the Those who choose to use guns should be able to protect their hearing without going through a long and costly process to do so. Please repeal Texas' criminalization of the use of suppressors.

Ellen Jane Horn

Self/Family

Clarendon, TX

My name is Ellen Jane Horn, I represent MYSELF and my family, who hunt and support our 2nd Amendment rights to keep, bear and use arms. We support HB 957. Please stand with us in supporting HB 957.

Thank you.

Griffin Smith

Self. Chemical engineering

Magnolia, TX

I support this bill.

Suppressors have many benefits for law-abiding citizens and their neighbors. I support this bill to remove needless state restrictions on suppressors. Also, I support creating a Texas-only class of suppressors untouched by federal overreach. Currently the acquisition and possession of suppressors is subject to much federal regulation, which is inherently unconstitutional infringement. I would like Texas to take the lead in protecting hearing and helping gun owners be good neighbors (quieter) by normalizing suppressors.

Dee Chambless

Self

Houston, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL. Suppressors are not weapons. They are not lethal. Texans do not need to ask permission to protect our hearing. We can't count on the Federal Gov't to protect our 2nd amendment rights much less our hearing. This is a Texas issue. Please support this bill. My entire family's hearing would be just fine if we could easily obtain suppressors.

thanks you.

Mandy Kirkland

Self, pharmacy tech

Tennessee Colony, TX

I support this bill because suppressors reduce the noise decibel to a level that will not permanently damage the shooters hearing, thus making it safer for those in close range. I also feel that the burdensome red tape to obtain a suppressor is discriminatory and

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therefore less people own them. Having a “Made in Texas” suppressor that does not fall under the federal firearms regulations will benefit those across our great state that wish to obtain one. I urge you to support this bill and pass it out of committee.

Sam Weatherby

Self

Abilene, TX

Passing this bill will allow more law abiding citizens to have access to suppressors. Which will in turn be good for hearing, safety, and the Texas economy. Texas residents will love having the opportunity to manufacture quality suppressors for other Texas residents to use to protect their hearing, and reduce the noise level when shooting at ranges close to communities. I have personally taken many shooting classes, taught shooting classes, hunted and have been shooting most of my life, and served in the military (army 11C, 2 deployments Afghanistan). With that said I believe more people having access to suppressors is a great and amazing opportunity. There are also many technical related things one must know and do with a suppressor when equipping it to a weapon. Meaning criminals are most likely not going to have the knowledge to use them, or equip them to weapons. (criminals tend to be dull witted and not be the brightest crayon in the box) So please consider passing this bill, I believe it will be good for the great state of Texas and it's citizens!

Marc Pitts

Self

Flint, TX

My name is Marc Pitts. I strongly support HB 957. There is absolutely no reason for government restrictions on the ownership of a firearm suppressor. Suppressors are a safety tool that just brings the decibel level down to a slightly safer level. Suppressed firearms are not anywhere close to being silent. Instead of being around a deafening 160 decibels, it's more like the sound of an aircraft taking off (around 140 decibels). Any sound above 85 decibels will have the potential to cause permanent hearing damage. This is an easy bill to support. Please pass HB 957 out of committee so that it can sail through the rest of the legislative process.

Chris Robert

Self

Plano, TX

I support this bill as it will help protect my family and I from hearing damage while enjoying legal use of firearms.

Please support this bill

Jonathan Findley

JONATHAN FINDLEY

PASADENA, TX

I support this bill. Suppressors are great, and there is much R&D that remains to be done. Texas can lead the way in the development and manufacture of suppressor technologies.

Steven Timoshuk, Suppressors

Self

Katy, TX

I dont think it's right that the government regulates an item that is uses to protect a shooters hearing. It's not a firearm. The

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people are suppose to have the power, not the government.

Emmett Dibble

Self

Rosenberg, TX

This is a fantastic idea. Hearing loss from hunting and recreational firearm use should be mitigated and suppresser use is common in Europe.

Thomas Williams

(self)

Leander, TX

I strongly support HB957. It is ridiculous that firearm noise suppressors are illegal. Far from making them silent, the noise suppressors reduce the noise to a level that will not cause permanent damage to the hearing of people nearby.

Their function is the same as the muffler on your car or the muffler on your lawn mower.

I urge you to move this bill forward to the floor for a vote.

-Thomas

Isaac Johnston

Self

Groesbeck, TX

I am for HB 957 on the grounds that most people have a very large misunderstanding of suppressors, They are a safety tool not a magic tube that completely gets rid of all sound. If you had to defend yourself in your house or vehicle imagine how much damage it can do to your hearing, it could possibly even leave you with permanently damaged hearing, however if you were to have a suppressor in these types of confined spaces it lowers the risk of hearing damage significantly and yes while most people will only use them for fun at the range we should still be able to own them just like any other type of safety equipment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Fred Stevens

Self / Retired

SANGER, TX

I SUPPORT HB 957 because a device made in Texas and kept within Texas should not be subject to federal regulation. The Commerce Clause only pertains to items in interstate commerce, not intrastate.

Paying a federal tax to use something that should be legal in Texas is onerous at best. Please vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Mark Randol

self

Austin, TX

I support HB 957.

Suppressors aren't the magical devices shown on TV and movies. They just make firearms audibly safer and less obtrusive to those around them. For training, it allows the trainer and student to more easily communicate. In areas near outdoor ranges or in rural areas where shooting and hunting are allowed, the reduced noise is more neighborly.

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Jonathan Heyward

Self

Cibolo, TX

I support this because I know that after firing a firearm it can cause ringing in your ears and can some time cause other issues so having a suppressor with out having to wait for up to a year to get it . A suppressor will get the noise level to a safe level. Please support this bill.

Mike Byrd, PhD

self

Forney, TX

I represent HB 957, and am a member or GOA. This Bill is important to me because suppressors are a functional sound protection device and are directly covered by the Second Amendment. Please support this Bill. Texas must lead when it comes to all Constitutional issues.

Graham Sims

Self/ unemployed

Houston, TX

Please pass this and tag on sbrs and sbss as well, the tax stamp and 6 month to year's long wait is clearly an infringement. My kids ate at the age where they will soon be learning to shoot and using suppressors is safer. Hearing damage sucks.

Caleb Guthrie

Self, mechanic

Arlington, TX

The NFA by and large doesn't make any legal or logical sense, but suppressors being included in it makes the least sense. Even in countries with strict gun control, suppressors are able to be bought over the counter, or ordered and shipped straight to ones door. The NFA was written at a time of desperation for many Americans, and suppressors being added to it was ostensibly to prevent poaching. However, like all laws, it was written by bureaucrats who generally don't know what the hell they're legislating. These days, an ignorant citizen might see a suppressor and think of a Hollywood assassin, silently eliminating someone from the shadows. The thing about Hollywood, though, is that they've never had a decent grasp on reality. In actual reality, where the general population lives, suppressors bring the report of a shot down from the level of a jet engine to that of a jackhammer. I don't know a single person who would describe a jackhammer as "quiet," whether they've used one or not. So any argument against suppressors stating that they could possibly be used to commit silent crimes is not based in reality; instead, it is based in fear and ignorance.

I am fully FOR the deregulation of suppressors.

Allen Acuna

Self

Schertz, TX

I stand with this bill

John Scott, Mr.

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Self

Cuero, TX

I approve of this bill

Jeff Warling

Private citizen

San Antonio, TX

I assist in agricultural farming in Medina County. We are also plagued with countless, invasive, wild hog populations throughout Medina County and much of Texas. To try and alleviate our farm and the farms of others, I hunt, trap, and eradicate wild hogs when able. Unfortunately, the noise pollution I produce as a shooter without a suppressor is substantial for neighboring communities and farms within hearing distance any time I discharge my firearm in the pursuit of wild hog eradication. It is my firm belief that being able to use a suppressor without the often tedious, time consuming and often asinine procedures of having to communicate with the ATF in order to own or use suppressors, will not only assist countless hunters in the pursuit of safeguarding Texan crops/farms but will also reduce an already high level of noise pollution from agriculture.

With a suppressor more easily available for consumers in the hands of Texans reduces the risk of hearing damage to recreational shooters and hunters alike. It also makes said hunters more effective in the pursuit of their quarry by enabling them to take more accurate and quieter shots. This, in turn, means that quarry are killed humanely and in greater number due to the reduced noise created by modern firearms.

Please, for the sake of all Texans, remove the ATF from the process of Texan Suppressor ownership

Edwin Anderson, Citizen

Self

Lubbock, TX

Keep Texas free from Federal interference

David St Martin

self

Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill, because the CDC recommends use of a suppressor if possible to safeguard one's health, and I do not want hearing damage. I do not want the Federal government to infringe on Texas gun owner rights, so having a Made in Texas, stay in Texas with Texas parts is a perfect solution to maintain our Texas independence. Suppressor ownership and use should not be criminal, rather desirable for ones own health and noise to those near gun discharge.

Alan Abbott

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

As a gun owner who uses firearms not only for protection but also for a hobby, I spend a lot of time at the range in practice and competitions. The ability to use a suppressor without going through the ATF's NFA process will be a huge advantage to myself and other shooters. Suppressors greatly reduce the risk of hearing damage from firearms. Even using ear protection, the amount of time we spend exposed to high decibels levels is dangerous. This bill will make shooting at ranges specifically more enjoyable and safer. We should be able to use these safety devices without the interference of the federal government.

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Charles Strahley, Mr.

Self/ Student

Spring, TX

Every man should have the right to own a suppressor in Texas. We should reject any and all unconstitutional laws and regulations which include those attached to suppressors.

Devin Williams

Self/Aerospace CNC programmer/cylindrical precision grind

New Braunfels, TX

Deregulating suppressors is essential to gun ownership. If you look at car mufflers, which essentially performs under the same criteria as a firearms suppressor, you see that they create a better environment for all motorists and those in the vicinity of roads. In fact, it is illegal to have a vehicle without mufflers in most situations. Also, Cars with mufflers are not really even that quiet, it just allows for a more desirable experience involving internal combustion engines comparatively to unmuffled internal combustion engines. This is exactly the reason for firearm suppressor deregulation. All things being equal, not having suppressors is more dangerous than the other way around. Thus firearm suppressors should be deregulated and incentivized instead of regulated and vilified.

Matthew van Zuilekom

Self

Houston, TX

To Whom it May Concern,

I am opposed to this bill. I'm worried by any bill that strips away gun rights, as I believe gun rights can potentially be taken away bit by bit until the 2nd amendment is a shell of what it once was.

Guns are only dangerous when they're used improperly. This goes for any tool or any hobby. For instance, driving a sports car is immensely fun, and trying to go as fast as you can around a track is gratifying and simply very entertaining. But a sports car can also be used improperly, which could lead to the death of the driver, and whoever is unfortunate enough to be nearby. Guns are the same way, you can take them to a gun range with some friends and have a great time.

I believe the solution to gun violence is to change the culture around guns. They shouldn't be seen as a method to kill others, it should be seen as a fun interesting hobby. All this bill would do is prevent others in the future from getting into the hobby, and strip away a basic American right.

Thank you for your time. Hope you have a nice day, and vote against this bill.

Nathan Rodriguez, Mr.

Self

Lubbock, TX

I SUPPORT this bill.

Suppressors reduce gunshot volumes from ~160 decibels to mid 130 decibels. The occupational hazard limit is 140 decibels. In a study from 2011 entitled Noise and Lead Exposures at an Outdoor Firing Range - California, researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found the following: "The only potentially effective noise control method to reduce students' or instructors' noise exposure from gunfire is through the use of noise suppressors that can be attached to the end of the gun barrel. However, some states do not permit civilians to use suppressors on firearms." Hearing loss is a public health issue

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associated with gunfire, and suppressors help hunters and recreational shooters reduce their exposure to dangerous noise levels.

Cameron Meyer

Self, Engineer

La Porte, TX

I am a Civil Engineer who struggles to sleep at night, hear in meetings as well as casual conversations and cannot stand silence due to Tinnitus. Growing up I was poor and putting food on the table meant hunting and since suppressors aren't cheap I had to sacrifice my hearing since hunting in ear plugs doesn't allow you to hear the animals. I am constantly plagued by my Tinnitus and the hearing loss I have incurred. We have a chance to prevent this for future generations and I say we do it as best we can since Tinnitus is a fate that I wouldn't wish on anyone. Thanks you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Cameron E Meyer

Hunter Chambers

self; game developer

Kingwood, TX

I have nothing new to say other than I wholeheartedly agree with the common reasons provided for deregulating suppressors, those being related to hearing damage, crime statistics, and the actual achievable sound reduction. There aren't tangible reasons for suppressors to remain regulated.

David Davis

Citizen

Dallas, TX

Please do your job according to the constitution

Greg Tatum

self

Garrison, TX

I support this bill. There is no common sense reason for suppressors to be illegal. Unlike in Hollywood movies, in real life, they do not make firearms silent. They are only useful to make firearms safer to use for the person firing them by reducing the sound to a tolerable level. This can also help to prevent disturbing neighbors when training on your own property. Lastly, the Federal government should have no say in the rights of law abiding Texans when it comes to what firearms or accessories for firearms we can legally own in this state.

Justin Lindeman

Self

Weatherford, TX

Suppressors have been erroneously regulated for far too long. They are not a firearm and are nothing more than a firearm accessory. They are very useful for hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts alike, lowering noise pollution, and potential long term hearing damage.

Aaron Gossett, Mr

Self contractor

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Henderson, TX

Please support it

Roberto Flores

Self, retired military and federal law enforcement officer

Laredo, TX

I strongly wish to see this pass In order to save my hearing, make it affordable by reducing the high prices of purchasing one and paying a unconstitutional tax stamp and lastly, to reduce complaints from people voting down new gun ranges due to the house levels associated with firearms ranges as silencers and suppressors will greatly reduce noise pollution.