

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1500

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: April 1, 2021 8:00 AM

Bryan Graham

Self

LITTLE ELM, TX

My name is Bryan Graham from Little Elm, TX and I would like to register my SUPPORT for HB 1500.

James Atkins

self

PLANO, TX

I would like to thank the House of Representatives hearing the responses of its constituents.

On the subject of HR 1500, I see how this bill helps to prevent the state and local Government from restricting firearms and ammo access to law abiding citizens.

thank you for your efforts in this smatter

James Atkins

Zakare Waddell

Self, Production Manager

Bonham, TX

I support this bill. By passing this into law we can protect our natural rights from future tyrants who would use any excuse to declare an emergency and strip us of our rights. Also, emergencies are when we are most likely to need the tools to protect our lives.

Hugh Robinson, Lt.

self military

Converse, TX

I support this bill and request that it be signed into law. Although I'm glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty.

During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves - which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition. Certain disasters and emergencies are just the times when looters and rioters decide to do what they do best and it is during these times that men and women need to be able to protect themselves and their family from the evil that wants to take advantage of these types of situations.

Ronald Moon, Mr

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

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Thank you, congressman Hefner, for firmly establishing the lawful right to protect myself and my family during disasters and emergencies. Your work is much appreciated.

RTM

jorge alonso
self, civil engineer
richmond, TX

disasters and emergencies do not void the US Constitution. Government at any level does not have a right to void the Bill of Rights.

James Mandl
Self
San Antonio, TX

I fully support this bill though it should also include an amendment that prevents county or local officials from doing the same statewide in their counties or municipalities. No state government official should have the power to regulate the above for any reason.

Harold Waters
self
Houston, TX

Please support this bill. In times of emergency when the police and other government representatives are overwhelmed the citizens need full access to personal protection. Times of emergency are not the right time to restrict a citizens right to self defense.

Michael Biello
Self
Katy, TX

I would like to strongly encourage you to vote yes on HB1500. This bill must be signed into law to protect Texans against executive over-reach relating to the manufacture and/or exploitation of any and every emergency/disaster for political gain. Thank you.

Ted Moore
Self
north richland hills, TX

I urge Texas lawmakers to support this bill that removes the power for any Governor, or any other official to infringe on our 2nd amendment rights during a state of emergency or disaster.

During such times, those rights would be needed more than ever and no one should be allowed to abuse their governing power in such a time.

Chris Duncan
self

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Austin, TX

Please support this bill.

Michael Lugo

Self/License and Permit Specialist with the Texas Department of Public Safety

EL PASO, TX

Although we're glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves —

which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Gabriel Gaitan

self, SHSU graduate student

Huntsville, TX

Greetings Representative Hefner,

I am Gabriel Gaitan, a graduate student at Sam Houston State University specializing in Homeland Security Studies. I am testifying in support of HB 1500. While disasters like the recent power outage and Hurricane Harvey did authorize the governor to use available resources, Hurricane Katrina did allow the confiscation of firearms without due process. While it is stated for "security reasons", it is just a ploy to fuel their real goal, to disarm law-abiding citizens, leaving us at the mercy of criminals who will not show any type of mercy in return. Of course, during a declared disaster or state of emergency, the Governor of Texas may control the sale, transportation, and use of firearms and ammunition. However, our 2nd amendment rights and our to keep and bear arms for self-defense ARE NOT negotiable during disaster situations. Please, I as well as the citizens of Texas urge you to please support Bill HB 1500. Thank you and have a great day. I look forward for your response.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Gaitan

Jerry Adams

self natural gas measurement technician

Gardendale, TX

This bill should be supported by all members of the legislature that claim to be pro 2nd amendment representatives. We will be watching and noting which ones deserve future support.

Maritza Muguira

self

HELOTES, TX

I am thankful that Governor Abbott didn't abuse emergency powers, but our government is not based on trust but on separation of power and checks and balances. This bill protects our gun rights when they are most needed!

Ron Farace

Self

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Kingwood, TX

I am writing in support of HB1500. Current Texas law says that during a declared disaster or state of emergency, the Governor of Texas may suspend or limit sales of transportation of firearms and ammunition. This is at best completely random, and at worse an utter offense to Texans' rights to keep and bear arms. The time when a person would need a protective weapon the most is in fact in time of emergency or crisis, yet the current law allows the Governor to restrict them, at that very moment. This extreme power the Governor holds opens up far too much room for an anti-gun Governor to do what he or she wants in order to restrict. In the recent year we have seen much unrest in our great nation, including last summer where politicians and political candidates were urging and inspiring continued rioting with their rhetoric. In is not a stretch to see a politician insight a riot, declare it a state of emergency, and then use this power to severely restrict the use, transportation, and dictate means of storage of firearms and ammunition. This is unconscionable. Please support HB1500 to remove this dangerous power.

Ian Kress

Myself. Engineer.

Nassau Bay, TX

I would like to support HB 1500. Current law states that the Governor, in declared disaster or state of emergency (which they themselves can declare), can limit or suspend the sale of firearms and ammunition, and limit transportation of these items. This is a both an infringement of Constitutional rights, and potentially harmful in an emergency, when citizens may need firearms to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their property.

This bill would properly remove the power of the Governor to interfering in the sale or transportation of firearms at any time, and would also prevent counties and municipalities from interfering as well - currently only an opinion from the Attorney General prevents this.

Please support HB 1500. Thank you.

Clark Miracle

self, GIS Analyst

GRAHAM, TX

Since emergencies can be declared broadly and for an extensive length of time, we shouldn't have to trust the good graces of any governor or local executive official to protect our rights. Regulation of commerce and as many other powers as possible in the State of Texas should be limited to the Legislature, especially given the 2-year gap in which a governor can act independently of Legislative oversight here in Texas. I hope to never see Texas law enforcement going door-to-door to forcibly take firearms from lawful citizens, as was seen in Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina. Executive emergency powers should always be used sparingly within well-defined guidelines, under great scrutiny.

Von Long, Mr.

retired /self

Katy, TX

I am writing in support of H.B. 1500. Texas law currently allows a Texas Governor to use disaster or emergency declarations to restrict our ability to buy and sell, transport, carry, and use our firearms and ammunition. Thankfully, Governor Abbott did not use this power during the ongoing disaster declarations. But Texans shouldn't have to rely on the goodwill of any future governor to protect our rights. During a time of disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to buy, carry, and use firearms.

ANTHONY Listi

self, Data Analyst

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Allen, TX

I support. Although I'm glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

julie gosh

Julie Gosh

Austin, TX

Although we're glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. We have a natural right to self preserve and defend ourselves, and no governor or government has the right to regulate this, especially in times of emergency/disaster. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Andrew Austin, Mr.

Self

Livingston, TX

I fully SUPPORT this bill; I am thankful that Governor Abbott didn't abuse this power during the pandemic response. However, I shouldn't have to trust the good graces of any governor to protect our INDIVIDUAL rights. The purchasing, carrying and ownership of firearms and other implements are essential to a free society and liberty but this facet is even more pronounced during a state of emergency when the normalcy of society is compromised. Reign in the power of government.

Chris Edmiston

Self

Austin, TX

I SUPPORT HB-1500.

While Governor Abbot has made the correct decision not to try to restrict our rights, we should not allow any future Governor, who may not have as sound judgement, to infringe upon our Constitutionally protected rights. We've been seeing that some are pushing for disasters to last indefinitely, and I fear the current law could be construed to violate our rights.

While Attorney General Paxton, in March 2020, issued an opinion that the current preemption law prevents local governments from using a natural disaster to regulate or restrict the sale of firearms (KP-0296), this bill will resolve this issue into law.

Roger Welch

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

The means for self defense is especially important during an emergency. Invariably, criminals try to take advantage of such situations recognizing that law enforcement is stretched thin. There is an unprecedented assault on our 2nd Amendment rights going on right now nationally. Please help make Texas a sanctuary state. We need your support to keep our constitutional right from eroding.

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Matthew Pappas
Self/GOA Texas
Lewisville, TX

I support this bill. Given the hindsight of the pandemic, the riots, and other natural and man made disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, citizens need to have access to the tools to defend themselves and their property when first responders may be far to busy to help. Often, criminals take advantage of these situations to loot and rob residences and businesses. The concern is that, under current law, the government need only to declare an emergency in order to regulate use, sale and distribution of firearms and related items. I ask that you help empower your citizens in such scenarios by limiting the power of the Governor and other political groups. Thank you

Leonard Elbon
self
Magnolia, TX

I support this bill. No elected official or government, or municipality should be able to suspend or infringe on my constitutional rights. This is true at anytime, but is especially true in times of disaster and chaos when often law enforcement is no where to be seen and it falls on the citizens to protect themselves and their families.

Tony Curti
Self - Retired MD.
Austin, TX

I stand strongly in support of making Texas a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary and in the institution of Constitutional Carry. Having escaped the miasmal corruption of NY over 30 years ago, it is easy to see that the end run of the insidious and malignant goals of the misnamed "Liberals" is furtherance of the 4th Bolshevik Revolution, which they have to this point been largely successful in accomplishing in many states. The heartland of this country has to stand for the ethics and principles that furthered Western Civilization for 2000 years; otherwise, western freedom will disappear across the globe, as the current White House administration dances to the tunes called by Beijing. Perhaps, in response to the current administration's call for a "Vaccine Passport", Texas should establish a passport of its own. We are, after all, citizens of the states in which we reside FIRST, and of the federal government second.

Shane Bertram
self/ Writer
Humble, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1500. American's Second Amendment right to own and bear the effective means of self-defense are an integral part of what our country stands for. And in what circumstances is the importance of that right more necessary than during a disaster or state of emergency? The Governor should not have the ability to strip Texans of their right and ability to defend themselves, especially when they need it most. We must pass HB 1500 to safeguard the wellbeing and freedoms of Texans during any and all future disasters or states of emergency.

Santiago Diaz, Mr
Self
Seabrook, TX

I support this bill because it will help protects Texans' rights to firearms during emergencies.

Ted Ramsay
Self, Lockheed Martin, Mfg Planner
Weatherford, TX

I support this bill. It is common sense that in times of disasters and emergencies, normal law enforcement will be pre occupied with those efforts and the general public will need to be able to protect themselves from looters and any other form of civil unrest. Please vote for this bill.

Richard Kennedy, Mr
Self, Land Surveyor
Arlington, TX

Please SUPPORT HB 1500. This is a protection of our 2nd Amendment Rights under all circumstances, and removes the ability of politicians to limit those rights by claiming emergency power.

Jessie Teddlie
Self
Whitt, TX

We agree with HB 1500 and HB 2558. Texas must maintain our freedoms as stated in the Constitution of Texas and America!

Charles Vahrenkamp
Myself, retired
Belton, TX

I support HB 1500. All law-abiding citizens of Texas have the God given right to be able to use a weapon to protect their own life or the lives of their family. Fortunately, on a day-to-day basis, it is very unlikely most of us would find ourselves in a situation requiring us to use a firearm or other weapon to defend ourselves. However, during a disaster or major emergency the likelihood someone might need to defend themselves or a member of their family increases significantly. So why would we allow the Governor or any other authority the ability to disarm Texas citizens during a disaster when the probability of terrible things happening is much more likely. It seems absurd to me that in our time of greatest need, some authority figure could have the power to disarm me and put me in greater danger.

Joseph Bravo, Mr
Self
Katy, TX

Texas has always stood for freedom and supported our constitution. Our rights should be preserved, therefore I urge you to support and pass this bill.

John R Blocker Jr
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Marilyn Zigmond

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Self/Retired

Wimberley, TX

HB 1500 by Rep Hefner is a bill that would protect the operation of firearms manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, suppliers, retailers and shooting ranges during a disaster or state of emergency, and prohibits a Governor of Texas from regulating the sale, dispensing or transportation of firearms or ammunition and local officials from restricting the use of firearms or ammunition during a disaster or state of emergency. This bill is not about Governor Abbott, let me be clear about that! It is, however, going to protect us in the event we ever end up with an anti-gun Governor. We support this bill!

MICHAEL YOUNG

Self

Laneville, TX

Please support any legislation that protects my 2nd amendment rights as a US citizen and a Texan.

Billy Yant

self & spouse

Boerne, TX

This an excellent bill and I fully support, sponsor and promote it. This bill will prevent the "back-door" approach of taking away our 2nd amendment right by tyrants in the democrat/socialist/Marxist party during so called "state of emergency" situations. Taking away our ability to protect myself and my family during any emergency is absolutely unacceptable. If the government could take aware that protection it would deprive Texans of their 2nd amendment right and put my family in jeopardy; which is absolutely not the American way and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. This bill is essential to protect us Texans from the ever present majority of Marxists/democrats in the current USA Executive and Congressional majorities in power.

Matthew Miller

Self - Firearms Instructor. Range Safety Officer

Houston, TX

Criminals and the law less could care less about any laws related to restricting firearms and any tools or materials to do evil. This is why they are called Criminals ! Restricting the God Given Rights of good and decent people, the right to protect their families and property during a crisis is fundamentally wrong on it's face !

Ronald Olson

Ronald Olson

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support HB1500 100%. Our State needs to back all Bills supporting the 2nd Amendment right to own and carry Firearms. The attacks by the democrats cannot and should not be allowed to remove our freedoms given to us by our forefathers.

Myron Fischer

individual

Austin, TX

I support HB1500

William Deck

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Motorcycle Parts Ltd inc

Cedar Creek, TX

Please vote for this bill. During an emergency we need all the help we can get without having to worry about where we can go because of a Legal carry of a firearm.

Robert Haygood

STAR H RANCH LLC

TOPSEY/COPPERAS COVE, TX

please support

Jim Newman

self

Grapevine, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- 1) This bill protects citizens from having their firearms confiscated during a time of emergency by law enforcement, when it's the most critical for a person to have a firearm.
- 2) It also stops the government from being able to shut businesses from providing supplies needed for one's defense during a time of emergency.
- 3) The constitution is never suspended no matter what the crisis is, and no government should have that power, to do so, even in a time of emergency.

Rebecca McGill, Dr

Self- chiropractor

Fort Worth, TX

I would like to strongly encourage our representatives to support this bill in its entirety. The purpose of the second amendment is to allow law-abiding citizens to retain control of their firearms, especially in the face of a tyrannical government or emergency. This bill makes that possible. We cannot rely on a government official to "do the right thing" in such a situation, and we cannot hang our rights and liberties on that hope. We need to act now to protect our constitutional rights in the face of the future unknowns. There should be no law that supersedes the 2nd amendment, ever, even during a declared emergency. Citizens' guns and ammunition are their own private property necessary to protect our God-given rights and freedom and no government agency or official should be able to take them in any such circumstance. Please stand with your Texas constituents and protect the second amendment fully and completely in this state!

Margaretta Parma

myself - housewife

San Antonio, TX

Greetings,

I support bills HB 1550, HB 2558, and HB 2622.

Please do all you can to pass these bills.

Thank you,

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Margaretta Parma

Lee Kuhn

Self

Tomball, TX

During any declared disasters or emergencies all law abiding texans should be able to carry firearms, ammunition, knives, etc to protect themselves & their families and the governor should not be able to make changes to prohibit the ability to do so at any time during disasters or emergencies.

Thomas Gordon

Self

Temple, TX

Hi my name is Thomas Gordon

I support HB 1500 by Hefner

Thank you, Thomas

Walter Alexander

self and family/ retired

Texarkana, TX

It is imperative that we do not allow the Governor or any Government entities to be allowed to regulate firearms, ammunition, air guns, explosives and combustibles and certain businesses during disasters or emergencies. Disasters and emergencies are precisely the times all Texans need unfettered access to these things in order to be able to defend ourselves no matter what circumstances may arise.

Christopher Jones

Self

Somerset, TX

I back this bill. Please vote yes before a governor abuses their power like so many governor Lo across the country did

Sherri Shadle

Self

Aspermont, TX

I totally agree that this bill needs to pass. We don't need a present or future governor taking advantage of an emergency or creating an emergency situation just to limit our 2A rights. I support this bill.

Christopher Pyle

Self - Geologist

Kemah, TX

I support this bill.

No individual should have the right to interfere with our right to bear arms at any point in time, no matter what the circumstances

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are.

William Fitch

Self/Retired

Kerrville, TX

I SUPPORT this bill, in that ultimate power in one person does not bode well for future freedoms.

Brian McDaniel

self

crossroads, TX

During disasters and emergencies when public services are stretching to their limits. This is the time we as private citizens need to be able to protect ourselves the most. Please do not infringe on our rights to defend ourselves

Tim Huber

Myself

Kingwood, TX

Please honor your oath to the constitution and not place any restrictions on law abiding citizens. It's time to stop punishing the innocent for the actions of criminals. Thank you Tim Huber

Teresa Cleghorn, Mrs.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this Bill. While our governor did not abuse this power under the Covid emergency, it should not be there to tempt a future governor. Emergencies are times when Texans are more likely to need their guns and ammo, not less.

Angela Miller

Self

Arlington, TX

We must become a sanctuary state and protect ourselves from this presidential administration! Failure of I do so will result in tyranny bc Biden and the loser Dems want to take guns and weapons from everyone which will not stop criminals.

Charis Calvert

self-disabled

Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill. It is ripe for abuse. Thankfully Governor Abbott did not do so during our severe winter storm event, nor this past year, however, a future governor may do so and they should not be given that authority, no matter the party.

suzy Robinson

Self

McGregor, TX

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I believe in case of disasters and emergencies the people should be free to protect themselves in any manner they see fit. Quit trying to manipulate the constitution and our freedoms.
Constitutional Carry should be the law of the land. Period!

Ricco Ramos

Self, Real Estate Investor

Houston, TX

I SUPPORT this bill. During a time of disaster, the risks of looting, robbery, and overall crime skyrockets. No governor should have the power to determine if Texans protect themselves.

John English

Self

Greenville, TX

As a Texan, I support this bill.

Thomas Shannon

self

Roanoke, TX

Times of disaster are exactly when a state governor should NOT be restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves from harm. Sadly, too many elected officials have done exactly that and good people suffered great harm for it. Remember Hurricane Katrina and our neighbor Louisiana? Please support HB1500 fully, and see it through to become law in Texas!

Christie Mariotto

Self

Sumner, TX

Please repeal the right of the Governor to regulate firearms or ammunition during an emergency, support HB 1500.

Duff Starrett

Texas Resident and Native

Dickinson, TX

We need to protect our state from both Federal Overreach and over reach from State officials. No matter how well intentioned removing personal freedoms, especially those that allow individuals to defend and protect their own family and property can not be allowed. e see a clear distinction between Red States and Blue States where people have the ability to defend themselves, their family, and their property. We have much fewer problems with assaults and crime. Making Texans defenseless in the stressful situation of a disaster will not make the situation better. When resources are stretched to the limit forcing Texans to rely only on Government support for their own security is a bad decision.

Thank you, Duff Starrett

Sammy Brown

Self

Pottsboro, TX

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I am 100% for this bill. Second Amendment rights are the single most important factor for me when choosing deciding how to cast my votes.

MICHAEL HOECHERL

Mike's Guns

Katy, TX

We're thankful that Governor Abbott didn't abuse this power during the pandemic response. However, we shouldn't have to trust the good graces of any governor to protect our rights.

Michael Maza

Self

Volente, TX

I sincerely hope that our state representatives will stand behind this bill to protect our lawfully run businesses from any infringement of their ability to operate solely because they are related in any way to the firearms industry. Our right to keep and bear arms is enshrined in our Constitution and I find it disheartening that entities within this country seek to undermine the foundation of the 2nd Amendment through the persecution of persons and businesses that support our rights in times of duress.

Justin Smith

Self

Aurora, TX

I support this bill. We need to protect our rights during an emergency.

Daniel Blahuta, Mr

Self, Retired

Whitesboro, TX

Please support HB 1500.

During an emergency is not the time for a governor to be able to regulate firearms.

Jeremy Hersom

Self

Anna, TX

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of myself and grateful Texans.

In the past several years we have witnessed far to many abuses of power by the government during a disaster. Not in Texas, but throughout the country. Many times government made owning a firearm illegal. During Hurricane Katrina when law enforcement could not do their jobs effectively, government officials made it a crime to own a gun and even confiscated firearms from law abiding citizens. This should never happen! Ever!

I am of the mindset that it is my job to care, provide for, and ensure the safety of myself and my family. It is not the government's job, nor can the government effectively do these things. And in times of disaster it is imperative that we do not strip the rights of protection from the citizens.

I support HB1500.

Andres Aguilar

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self

Houston, TX

politicians shouldn't be allowed to discriminate based on an antigun agenda

John Conner

Self/Adjunct professor

Houston, TX

Honorable Committee:

I support this bill! Although I'm glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Sincerely,
John Conner

Randy Dowell, Mr.

Self

Amarillo, TX

Government should not ever regulate firearms in the State of Teas. Hopefully we learned from hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Our rights to protect ourselves should not be infringed upon.

Michael Sisson

self - Electrical Engineer

Arlington, TX

I would like to voice my strong support for this bill. While I appreciate that Governor Abbott did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Jack Weaver

Self

Celina, TX

I support this bill. I shouldn't have to rely on a human being, as flawed as people are (including the Governor) to have good judgement in my and others ability to buy and sell guns/ammo/etc.

Jess Halpin

Self roofing and gutters

Arlington, TX

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I ask that as my representative you would support this bill that protects Texans from possible government overreach on firearms, and ammunition's during states of emergency, when firearms and ammunition can be critical in such times of emergency. As we've seen in the aftermath of Katrina and Harvey and the various hurricanes that have plagued Houston and the rest of the coast, where there were looters and other predators seeking to feed upon the vulnerability of those affected, which without the right to bear arms are as sheep for the slaughter. Being able to control these type of things are a direct infringement upon our Second Amendment. So I ask for a vote to repeal the emergency powers given to the governor to control the sales and transportation of firearms and ammunition.

Jeannie Hassell

Self/Retired

Zapata, TX

Currently, during a declared disaster or state of emergency, the Governor of Texas may control the sale, transportation, and use of firearms and ammunition.

I'm thankful that Governor Abbott didn't abuse this power during the pandemic response. However, Texans shouldn't have to trust the good graces of any governor to protect our rights.

Since this bill would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration I strongly urge you to support HB 1500!!

Richard Jones, Mr

Self

Abilene, TX

I seek the approval of HB 1500

Charles Freeman

self

Overton, TX

A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Bruce Abernathy

Retired

Dallas, TX

I support this bill, unchanged in any way!

William Glosson

Just realized with the oat]keepers I am the member of 8 Gun rights organizations, 6 of them are lifetime! I LOVE IT!

Huntsville, TX

Please do not strip law abiding citizens when we need our SELF DEFENSE RIGHTS THE MOST!

John Barnhart, N/A

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Self - Product Manager

Leander, TX

It is my God given right to defend my person, family and property at all times wherever I am within the state of Texas. Since it is a right and NOT a privilege the government should have zero authority to restrict or license and tax that right!!!

Charles Erwin

Self

Carrollton, TX

Please repeal the Governor's or any other Representatives emergency powers relating to gun rights. These laws are UNCONSTITUTIONAL because gun rights are Natural Rights outside jurisdiction of Government.

Tim DePalma

self

AUBREY, TX

I'm glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights.

A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty.

During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Eric Schafer

Self - Educator

Hewitt, TX

The gov't, whether it be the governor, county judge, or any agent of gov't elected or appointed should not have the power to infringe on anyone's ability to buy or sell inanimate objects. Please limit the power of gov't agents. Too many are abusing that power and are hurting Texans in the process. Texas was founded on principles which are contrary to what we have today. Like a vicious dog, gov't must be restrained.

Rick Mattice

Self/Retired

Corsicana, TX

No elected official should have the power to remove or curtail a citizen's rights even during a declared disaster or state of emergency. The constitution is clear on this matter and does not say "except for". We have seen what type of tyranny can be levied upon the citizens by elected officials; Louisiana showed us that during Katrina, and other states have followed suit during the COVID-19 fiasco. HB 1500 will make sure that this type of tyranny does not happen in Texas. Without life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness we are nothing more than pawns. I urge all of you to support this bill and pass it with the utmost urgency. Respectfully, Rick Mattice.

Robert Sensabaugh, Mr

Self

Arlington, TX

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I fully support this common sense bill.

dale ross

Tactical Prosource

katy, TX

No one should have the power to regulate these items from citizens, especially during extreme times of hardship. Regulating these items would only apply to law abiding citizens. Do you really think that lawless thugs, who already break the law, would abide by these laws?

Herbert Bidwell

private citizen

Livingston, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill.

Ellis Knox

Knox Shooting Academy

Pittsburg, TX

This bill is needed to prevent the unlawful seizure of law abiding Texans by any law enforcement entity in the state during any natural or man-made emergency or disaster. In that the seizure could and would render the law abiding defenseless in the aftermath of said emergency or disaster against looters or other criminals bent on thievery or other evil acts.

Rhonda Freeman

Self/Biller

Jefferson, TX

I support this bill.

Texans should not have to depend on any governor to protect their rights during an emergency.

Chris Freeman

Self/Shipping Operator

Jefferson, TX

I support this bill.

Texans should not have to depend on any governor to protect their rights during an emergency.

Richard Miller

self retired

McAllen, TX

There seems to be a inherent problem with the government controlling our lives to allegedly make it better. However, There are times when people overthink or vote paranoia into law. when you restrict gasoline, diesel fuel, your restricting the movement of goods and services, Its a combustible, or an explosive, Even in small quantiles. I cant believe knives are even on here. I've

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carried one since I was a child. This actually places undue stress on the public at a time of need or disaster. the restriction of ammunition or firearms at ANY TIME is wrong. Then to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration is to invite looters, theft, robbery, and possible death to innocent people, Actually defeating the purpose of what is needed at the time of disaster or insurrection. I also applaud Governor Abbott and AG Paxton for there calm during the pandemic,

Eugene Lux

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

Please support this bill

Frank Krawiec

Self

Justin, TX

Please, no regulation.

Nichole Chaput

Self

League City, TX

Dear Representatives,
Support HB 1500!

In times of emergencies or a crisis, the citizens have a right to defend and protect themselves. It is not up to our government to decide when, where and how we can do this.

Support your fellow Texans by supporting HB 1500!

Thank you

Karen Yoas

Self

Zavalla, TX

We need to be able to protect ourselves and times of emergencies. Please pass this bill.

Martha Conner

Self/Social worker

Houston, TX

Dear Committee: I support this bill. During the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Thanks!

Martha

George Clement

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self

Austin, TX

I don't think we need to have more regulation related to self protection during an emergency.
We have our rights given to us by God, Govt should not infringe just because of some possible issue.
During an emergency lets focus on real problems and let the people help as they can without being hindered more.

Brent Doty

Self, Operations Director

Robinson, TX

Citizens' Second Amendment rights are just as important during disasters and emergencies, perhaps more so. We are fortunate to have a conservative governor who recognizes this. But we could be less fortunate in that office at some future time. This should not be left to chance, but rather should be corrected in the law.

Mark Roberts

Self

Ft Worth, TX

I fully support this legislation...

Stephen Hurst

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

Please pass this bill.

Edward Goodstein

Self - Retired Engineer

FRIENDSWOOD, TX

Please support these bills.

RICHARD JENKINS

ORANGE GROVE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

HOUSTON, TX

On behalf of all Texas 2A Rights Supporters & Voters, I ask that you, please, vote to pass this bill.

Newton Benham, Mr

Self

Longview, TX

I fully support all the above bills, especially those affecting the Second Amendment!
Our Constitution is there for a purpose so read it, believe it and protect it!
Newton Benham

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Travis H
Self
Plano, TX

A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty as the Right to Self Defense and/or to Keep and Bear Arms, in whatever form that Right may take!

During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition!

Respectfully, vote for this bill and pass it out of committee forthwith.

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Mal Staples
Self, retired from oilfield in 2021
Spring, TX

My wife and I support House Bill 1500, and want to see it passed.

We support the 2nd Amendment, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights for Americans and Texans.

We especially support the ability to protect ourselves during times of Disaster and/or Rioting. We do not want to have the Government confiscate our Firearms during disasters, e.g. Katrina hurricane.

Please let us know if we can do anything to further passage of this Bill.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Mal and Regina Staples

Arthur Cameron
self, Retired
Tyler, TX

I support this bill.

The people of Texas do not want a "king" who can make the laws and then enforce them. During an emergency or disaster a citizen is more likely to need firearms and ammunition, so we do not need a governor empowered to regulate the way we buy, sell, or use them.

James Lenaburg
Self - Retired
KELLER, TX

Please support and pass this bill to protect our firearms rights during disaster or emergencies from the Governor restricting them. Those are the times when we will most be called upon to defend ourselves and our families so there should not be any path for an anti-gun Governor that may ever get elected from restricting those rights.

Mark Junker

Self - Semiconductor Equipment Eng.

Coppell, TX

No governor, even a republican governor, should have to right to prohibit, eliminate ones need to provide a reasonable safe environment of self protection during a crisis.

Richard Hanson

Self

EL PASO, TX

No single individual, I don't care who it is should have the power to modify natural rights. In particular, such power cannot be allowed during life threatening emergencies where families are at risk.

Bruce Wiswell

self, Retired Federal Engineer

McKinney, TX

Support this bill. our second amendment rights should continue during a disaster or state of emergency.

Scott Walston

Self

Uvalde, TX

I support this bill. We should not be regulated during disasters and emergencies in such ways that will preclude our rights to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

Gary Johnston

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote in favor of HB 1500 in order to further the safety and individual freedom of law-abiding Texans. Thank you!

Charles Seay

Self

Dallas, TX

Please vigorously support this law (my counsel casts no dispersion whatsoever on Gov Abbott).

William Geyer

self

Granbury, TX

I'm asking you to support this bill to protect our civil rights from future entities that may be hostile to our Second amendment rights.

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Thank You

Jeb Brown, Mr

self

Boerne, TX

I fully support this bill. I voted for and really like Gov Abbot, but what happens when we get a Bloomberg/Soros supported California Zombie as governor? Freedom isn't subject to the rule of government, we need to pass this bill. Thanks!

Michael Fossum

Self, engineer

Austin, TX

I support HB 1500, and ask that you do too. The right to keep and bear arms is a god given human right, and shall not be infringed. This right is protected by the Texas and US Constitution. This right does not disappear just because there is a natural disaster or a government declared state of emergency. Consequently the Governor and political entities should have no special authority over firearm owners and business during a natural disaster or a government declared state of emergency. Please vote yes on HB 1500.

Charles Guest

Self / Technical Service

KATY, TX

As a law abiding gun owner living in Texas and a legal LTC holder I fully support this bill.

Michael Stom

Self / IT

Wylie, TX

I support HB 1500 and ask that you please do the same. The Governor and local officials have no business regulating the sale, dispensing, transportation of firearms or ammunition or restricting the use of firearms or ammunition during a disaster or state of emergency. We have seen how tyrannical Governors and Attorney Generals in other states restricted their citizens Second Amendment rights during the pandemic of 2020. Should Texas ever suffer the misfortune of having a Governor like some of those other states, its law abiding citizens will need the protections offered by HB 1500.

Thank You

Rick Briscoe, Legislative Director

Open Carry Texas

San Antonio, TX

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

I am Rick Briscoe, Legislative Director of Open Carry Texas, appearing in support of the bill. I was unable to attend the hearing because of a medical appointment.

This bill incorporates existing protections into emergency declarations. In such circumstances access to many of the materials added to the bill are even more important than in a non-emergency circumstance and the manufacture, transportation and sale of these materials is essential to the availability of the items.

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Thank you for your consideration of the above remarks,

Rick Briscoe

Thomas Vician

Self - Finance

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill.

Keep any governor of Texas away from the control of firearms during an emergency. That's precisely when firearms are most important for law abiding citizens to defend life from the greatly heightened threat of violent forcible felonies described in Title 2 Chapter nine of the Texas penal code.

The top bureaucrat in Texas nor any in the local municipalities should have zero unilateral "control" over self defense equipment when it may be most needed by citizens acting lawfully to defend innocent life.

This is a simple and necessary check over the potential abuse of power against the Basic Human and God Given Right of self defense Please enact it.

David Berleth

Self Retired

Houston, TX

I support this bill. Currently ,during a declared disaster state of emergency, the Governor of Texas may control the sale, transportation , and use of firearms and ammo. We are thankful that Governor Abbott didnt use this power during the pandemic, however we shouldnt have to trust the good graces of any governor to protect our rights.

HB1500 by Rep Hefner would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration. Again I support HB1500.

Beryl Cotton

Self Engineer retired

Lexington, TX

I support HB1500. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition. Any law that limits firearm access or use is a 2nd amendment violation. With the entry of criminals across our southern border it is essential that each Texan have the ability of self-protection.

Mark Browning

Self/IT Analyst

Frisco, TX

I strongly support this HB 1500 by Hefner. We should never rely on any government official, or governor in this particular case, to protect our gun rights, as this is a God given right; governors do change and elections obviously can be manipulated as we all have clearly witnessed in 2020. No governor, or any elected official for that matter, should have the right to take away this essential liberty and God given right. As GOA clearly highlights, "During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves, which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition." I totally agree and support this statement. "Shall not be infringed." Thank you for your support.

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Melisha Corbitt

Self

Austin, TX

I am in favor of HB 1500.

Texans should not have to trust the good graces of any governor (one person) to protect our rights.

HB 1500 would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration.

For these reasons I am in favor of HB 1500.

John Stiles

Self

Dallas, TX

Hi my name is John Stiles, I represent myself, and I am in support of HB 1500. The way I understand this bill. It prohibits the Governor from regulating the sale of firearms and ammunition and also protects the operations of firearms manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, suppliers, retailers, and gun ranges during a state of emergency or natural disaster. I feel the our rights afforded to us under the 2nd Amendment should not be infringed even during times of disaster or state emergency. To me this makes common sense and I urge for the passage of HB 1500.

Tom Cunningham

Self

Austin, TX

A state of emergency does not eliminate the rights of the people, nor does it remove the need to defend oneself -in fact, individuals could find themselves more vulnerable in a state of emergency. With state resources stretched thin, the people need the ability to defend themselves and their loved ones from those who would take advantage of the situation. Please repeal these emergency powers so that they cannot be abused and so that Texans can rest assured that their liberties will not be infringed when they need them most.

Noe Perez

Self/Teacher

Laguna Vista, TX

My name is Noe Perez. I represent myself and I strongly support H.B. 1500 because this bill resolves issues left unresolved by S.B. 112 from the 2007 Legislative Session. S.B. 112 passed the 80th Legislature overwhelmingly in response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. S.B. 112 created law prohibiting the confiscation of lawfully owned firearms by law-abiding citizens during a disaster and is one of the more relevant civil rights laws enforcing Article I, Section 23 of our Texas Constitution. A governor can still ban the sale or transportation of firearms and ammunition during a disaster. A governor or other elected official should not be able to ban the sale or transportation of firearms or ammunition during a disaster.

There is some ambiguity regarding sport-shooting ranges operating during a state of disaster, as happened recently during the coronavirus pandemic. Sport-shooting ranges need to remain accessible during disasters to first responders as well as to law-abiding citizens. The county where I reside set restrictions as to what businesses they deemed essential. I emailed one county official where I reside whether our county deemed sport-shooting ranges as essential; the response I received contained the following sentence: "The gun stores are essential but shooting ranges are not." Existing state law under Section 236.002, Local Government Code proscribes all counties from regulating commerce in firearms and that law limits the ability of counties to

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regulate the discharge of firearms at sport-shooting ranges.

We need further improvement to the 1985 firearms preemption law, a law authored by former Senator Buster Brown and co-authored by former Senator John Sharp. H.B. 1500 reforms the 1985 firearms preemption law to get us a tad bit closer to the original version of S.B. 1187 from the 69th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature from 1985. H.B. 1500 revises the 1985 firearms preemption law to ensure a municipality does not abrogate a citizen's right to use firearms during a disaster.

No one knows what the future holds but whether it be a hurricane, tornado, or pandemic, our lives and the safety of our communities and families should not depend on the whims of public servants. Local governments should not suspend civil rights during a disaster. We should have the decency to stand up for the most basic civil right: the right to life. As a citizen, I respectfully request that the House Committee on State Affairs favorably report H.B. 1500 with the recommendation that it do pass. Thank you.

Nathan Rodriguez, Mr.

Self

Lubbock, TX

I SUPPORT this bill.

The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. A governor should not have the power to take away an essential liberty to self defense. During times of disaster like the ones we have encountered in 2020 and already during the Power Outages during this year, it is critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves- Which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Please repeal the governors emergency power to infringe on our Second Amendment right during disasters.

Don Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support HB1500.

Doris Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support HB1500.

Petra Galvan

myself

Conroe, TX

I believe the Governor and certain political subdivisions should act on the behalf of the people who elected them, and they should not restrict or regulate firearms, ammunition, knives, air guns, explosives, and combustibles and certain associated businesses during certain disasters and emergencies so as to not compromise a citizen's welfare.

Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

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Our governor should not have the ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration. That is too much power for any one person to have over our lives. During an emergency, we should be able to continue getting what we need without government intervention. Please support HB 1500.

AARON BROOKS

self

RICHMOND, TX

I support HB 1500 and the right of all Texans (and Americans) to protect themselves at all times, especially during emergencies, with firearms if necessary.

Patsy Boatright

Self/ homemaker

Maryneal, TX

I support hb 1500. Gun laws infringe on my right to protect my family , my neighbors and myself.

Jade Naaman

Self

Round Rock, TX

I thought this was already law. This is very high priority. Rights don't stop during disasters and emergencies - on the contrary, they become more crucial!

Michelle Mostert

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I SUPPORT HB-1500. The governor should not have all the current power during certain disasters and emergencies. Thank you.

Valerie Adame

Self Sole Proprietor Photographer

Liberty, TX

Good Morning, It is clear to me that if citizen's have already been determined able to legally own a weapon in the state of Texas, that such person's responsibility and due diligence would not change during a time of emergency. Quite the opposite, legal gun owners are citizens who take their responsibilities seriously and would only use their weapons in a manner that would protect their own family and other citizens who may be compromised during an emergency. Legal gun owner's should not have their 2nd amendment right altered by anyone during an emergency. I support HB 1500. Thank you for taking time to read my testimony.

Nick Naul

Self

Frisco, TX

We've seen local, state, and federal agencies ignore the Constitution and common sense repeatedly during emergencies. Hurricane Katrina and the more recent so-called Covid "pandemic" are prime examples. This bill is needed to protect Texans from the tyranny of its misguided or tyrannical functionaries. Please support HR 1500. Thank you.

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Catharine Wall
Self; Unemployed/Retired Teacher
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1500.

Jake Warren
Self
Richardson, TX

I support this bill because it would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration.

David Flores
First Love Christian Church
San Antonio, TX

Honorable House of Representatives,

I am writing to you to express my support for HB 1500. As a proud Texans, I support the right to keep and bear arms, a right protected by our Constitution. I thank God for our Governor Abbott that he is a proud supporter of our Second Amendment as well, but at the rate we are going, fraud in our election process, etc., we never know when we will ended up with a socialist governor so, please, when you vote on this issue, think about the safety of our places of worship, our daycares, single moms using weapons to protect themselves and their children. Please, use common sense. God bless you.

Wayne Wilks
self/Unmionwireman
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB1500
During an emergency is not a time to infringed on the 2nd. Amendment. Shall not infringe ever.
Thank you

Daniel Doak
Mr. and Mrs.
Lubbock, TX

If you recall the confiscation of guns in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. Police resources were stretched thin. It makes to sense to render law abiding citizens incapable of defending themselves when police are incapable of responding and looters are ravaging. Remember the 2nd amendment of the U.S. Constitution. "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Note it says explicitly, "shall not be infringed" and while it is unlikely that our current governor would move to confiscate necessary means of self-protection in the form of guns the day may come when a governor, law enforcement, county or city/town official may decide to do so. Therefore I call on the Texas Legislature to repeal Texas Governors ability to regulate or control firearms during a disaster or state of emergency. To prohibit a Texas Governor from using an emergency directive to prohibit or restrict the business or operations of a firearms or ammunition manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, supplier, or retailer or a sport shooting range. To repeal municipalities' possible ability to regulate the use of firearms, air guns, or knives in the case of an insurrection, riot, or natural disaster and to

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codify Attorney General Paxton's opinion that preemption law trumps a local governments' ability to shut down gun businesses.

george doby, mr.

self

cleburne, TX

this bill is essential for the continueing freedom in Texas. if there is any time that our 2cd amendment is needed it is during an emergency, whether weather, riots, natural disaster, man made disaster or any other emergency. i urge y'all to pass this out of committee to be voted on on the floor.

Jonathan Findley

Self, software engineer

Pasadena, TX

I support HB1500. Under no circumstances should it be acceptable for anyone in government to restrict the possession, sale, transport, or manufacture of firearms, ammunition, knives, or any other device with which an individual may prefer to defend themselves or others. This statement especially applies during "disaster" declarations, where their procurement and/or possession are most important.

Lewis Locke

self

Baytown, TX, TX

Texas citizens in no way should be restricted from access to everything they need during an emergency, or at any other time for that matter. I support protecting Texans from the possible restriction of access to firearms and related items.

Zoila Vega-Marchena, Dr

self, engineer

Austin, TX

I support this bill

Nathan Fleer, Dr.

Self PhD Chemist

Katy, TX

I support HB1500. It is imperative that, during an emergency, people are allowed to protect themselves and access the means of protection.

james britton

self

greenville, TX

I support this bill, we have enough regulations.

Marianne Paulsen

self - retired

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BELLEVILLE, TX

I'm happy that our current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, however we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty. During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves — which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

james britton

self

greenville, TX

I support this bill. There is no reason for a governor to ever hold this power.

Matt Klunkert, Mr

Self and retired

College station, TX

I'm a lifelong Texan. And my wife and both support bill 1500. The governor overstepped his authority on the entire COVID-19 situation. We believe the Texas legislature should have a vote in emergency issues as you are the people's representatives. Thank you for your service to Texans!

Christopher Butler

Independent.

Bedford, TX

I support the bill. No one should have special emergency powers. We have seen them get abused far too much.

Charles Wannall, Mr

Self, retired

Houston, TX

I agree with other members of Gun Owners of America that we shouldn't have to trust the good graces of any governor to protect our rights.

HB 1500 by Hefner would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration.

Please support HB 1500.

Thank you.

CRW

Houston

Joel Rodriguez

Self/ Field Technician

Jersey Village, TX

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I support this bill, no governor nor authority should have the right nor legislation to strip our God given rights in case of emergency or disasters. On the contrary our rights should be upheld in these types of situations since it's more likely we may need to protect and defend ourselves our families and love ones in these Scenarios.

Stacey Roberts

Roberts Ranch

Balmorhea, TX

HB 1500 will help further protect our ability to protect ourselves during a disaster. There is absolutely zero reason to remove our self defense when a disaster occurs. Actially a person is more vulnerable and needs their gun(s) more when there is a disaster because of the corrupt nature of man ie. Looting, pilfering and an increase in crime.

William Butcher

self

Bryan, TX

I support HB1500.

Presently, current law allows the governor and local municipalitites to impose certain restrictions at their leisure under the guise of an "emergency".

While Governor Abbott did not take advantage of certain aspects of the emergency to control the sale, transportation, and use of firearms and ammunition, we the people should not rely on the good intentions of a governor to not infringe on our rights. A future governor with less respect for our rights could take advantage of the situation to attack our rights and turn the everyday citizen into a criminal for protecting themselves or their families during an emergency.

HB 1500 by Hefner would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration. It would also protect the people from municipalities trying to use disasters and emergencies to regulate the use of firearms, air guns, or knives in the case of an insurrection, riot, or natural disaster. We have seen in the last year times where groups like BLM and Antifa choose to wholesale destroy the property of people who were merely in the wrong place. This bill would also codify Attorney General Paxton's opinion that preemption law trumps a local governments' ability to shut down gun businesses.

Harry Weekley

Self

Alpine, TX

I fully oppose this bill as it erodes my rights under the second Amendment. Bad bill, please do not support this bill.

Ann Moore

Self

Alpine, TX

I very much support this bill to continue the Governor's emergency powers during disasters & emergencies. Please, support this bill.

Andrew Perez

Self and self employed

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Weslaco, TX

I support this bill. The government has no place to tell citizens what they can and can't do during an emergency. Especially if we have the ever right to protect our families.

Robert White

Self

Selma, TX

Good afternoon, I'm writing to request that you Support HB 1500 to ensure that the governor cannot use his office authority to restrict the rights of law abiding citizens. After hurricane Katrina, Louisiana governor used this power to disarm many in the civilian population under the guise of protecting the average individual. Fellow eanna governor did this by utilising force for the National Guard and coast guard, where the average citizen faced having firearms pointed at them by the National Guard in order to disarm harmless individuals. I am sure that you can find on the Internet plenty of videos of this debacle and how bad things can turn. However, this only disarmed law-abiding citizens that wanted to protect themselves.

Although Governor Greg Abbott has not utilized these powers, that is no guarantee that a future governor will not. Please support this Bill so we can ensure that Texans will never face the same horrors that Louisiana citizens did during hurricane Katrina.

Thank you.

Dan White

Harry Weekley

Self

Alpine, TX

My earlier comment on opposing this bill was an error by me. Please disregard that statement as I fully support this bill. Sorry for my earlier error.

Barry McFarland

Self

Spring, TX

Support HB 1500

Governor Abbott showed his respect for the 2A and did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn't have to rely on a future governor's goodwill to protect our gun rights. The next Governor might not be as reliable as Gov Abbott.

A single elected official should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty.

During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves—which requires that Texans be able to buy, sell, carry, and transport firearms and ammunition.

Benji Campbell

Self

Anson, TX

No one person should be able to remove our God given rights during any disaster or emergency, real or fancied. I'm thankful that Governor Abbott didn't abuse this power during the pandemic response. However, we shouldn't have to trust the good graces of any governor to protect our God given rights to protect myself or my family. Please pass HB 1500 through this committee.

David Sims

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self - retired

Huntsville, TX

I urge you to support this urgent and necessary bill.
Any such authority will always lead to an oppressive and corrupt power.

Darrel Rhyne

Self

Toyahvale, TX

I support this bill! The right of the people to protect themselves is a God given right as confirmed by the constitution and cannot be revoked during an emergency when the need of self protection is the greatest! No Governor should ever have the authority to suspend the constitution or our rights!

ronald kirkpatrick

self/310 degrees inc.. and good shop automotive

duncanville, TX

As we have experienced in recent events, the government does not have the personnel or effective management plans to respond to those in need. what we have also witnessed is how ineffective law enforcement, including the military is at responding to those who are in imminent danger from lawless individuals or groups. knowing this, it makes no sense to take away the only means that law abiding citizens have to defend their god given, and constitutionally given right to defend their lives, the lives of their family, friends, neighbors, and their livelihood. As we know, criminals do not care if they are breaking the law, that is why they are called criminals. and as we see in places like Chicago, criminals do not care about breaking any gun laws either. let me be clear in my final remarks, i believe the real meaning and purpose of the 2nd amendment, is for the citizens of this great country to be able to take up arms against their own government and military. in the event that like our forefathers, the founders of these United States of America, we need to rise up and overthrow a tyrannous and corrupt government. Thank you, Ronald Kirkpatrick.

Gregory Clayton

Self

San Marcos, TX

I support this bill. The governor's ability to regulate and restrict our gun rights during an emergency must be repealed. While I am glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during recent emergencies, we have no idea what a future governor may do.

Karen Reeves

Self

Ben Wheeler, TX

I support this bill

Annette Bennett, Ms

Pct chair Gillespie co

Fredericksburg, TX

I support this bill as it repeals the governors ability to regulate guns during an emergency. During an emergency is when people need to have their guns for protection. Police are busy with the emergency and have no business taking the self protection away

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from people

Terry Frazier
self-employed
Tyler, TX

As a registered Texas voter, firearms trainer, gunsmith and FFL Holder I fully support HB 1500. We are fortunate as Texans that our Governor has not yet used his authority to strip law-abiding citizens of their self-defense rights during critical emergencies. But we cannot be left to depend on such good fortune in the future. The right of self-defense is inalienable and is needed in times of emergency more than ever. That a Governor can presume to override that right is an offense to decency and common sense. No one should be allowed to strip law-abiding Texans of their rights to access and use firearms and related products such as ammunition.

HB 1500 will remove Gubernatorial and political leeway that could allow future politicians to disarm law-abiding Texans during emergencies. I fully support passage of this bill.

Mark Combs
Self
Frisco, TX

I support the repeal of emergency powers given to Governor's, Thanks for the opportunity to comment, Mark Combs

jeff chan
self
MCKINNEY, TX

I SUPPORT this bill
During a disaster, whether natural, riot, or insurrection. It is never more important for Texans and family members to be armed and have access to firearms and ammunition for self-protection.
A governor and/or a municipality should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty.

William Bennett
Self - Director Network Modeling and Analytics
Wylie, TX

I am a Texas resident and 2nd Amendment supporter. I believe the it is critical for citizens to have the ability to defend themselves in all situations. Our 2nd Amendment rights are critical to the protection of our freedom and to our personal safety.

Our ability to defend ourselves is even more important during disasters and emergencies. Limiting the ability of the governor and other entities to restrict our rights during emergencies gives me the best chance to protect myself and my family. The need to defend ourselves in a disaster is critical because such situations both opportunity and desperation in others which can result in violence and crime.

Teri Horne
Self/ OCT:WOMEN
Quitman, TX

My name is Teri Horne and I live in Wood County, I Support hb1500, as the governor should not regulate the buying, selling or use of guns/ ammo during an emergency or disaster, especially being as during a disaster/ emergency we see the need for defense

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of person/ property rise, given the criminal element takes full advantage of said situation. We should not be regulated, we should be empowered.

Daniel Blahuta, Mr
Self, Retired
Whitesboro, TX

The governor should not have the power to regulate our means of defense, especially in an emergency situation.

Mark Ramsey, P.E.
self / engineer
Spring, TX

I support HB 1500. Please vote for it. Thank you.

Murray Miller
Self
San Antonio, TX

A government official, even the governor should not have emergency power to take away a person's rights afforded under the constitution to defend themselves and deprive an individual of their firearms

Cathy Jaster
self, retired
Georgetown, TX

I strongly support HB1500. A Governor should have NO AUTHORITY to take away our RIGHTS. Law abiding citizens have the right to defend themselves. Businesses have the right to operate. A Governor does not have the right to prohibit or restrict firearms, ammunition or related businesses. And during emergencies and disasters can be when defense is most needed.

Isaac Johnston
Self
Groesbeck, TX

I am for HB1500 on the basis that no government of any type should be able to have any control over firearms or anything that involves firearms.

Gerald Migely
self, retired
Kerrville, TX

I support HB 1500. During a disaster, it may be more important than ever for law abiding Texas citizens to have the right to carry firearms. They may be the only ones in these chaotic times, when all public service agencies are unavailable, to defend their family and property from criminals. There may be a time when a governor of the State of Texas my use a disaster to impose their anti-gun agenda in the guise of safety during a state disaster or emergency. This bill will protect the rights of all law abiding Texans during periods of calm or calamity. Please support HB 1500.

William Hitt, Pastor

Self - retired pastor, retired Navy Commanding Officer

The Woodlands, TX

I ask you to support this bill so that during a disaster or emergency we are not restricted from defending ourselves. There is greater danger when police are more occupied with other issues because of a disaster or emergency! Keep Texas safe!!

Melissa Butcher

Self

Bryan, TX

I support HB1500.

Presently, current law allows the governor and local municipalities to impose certain restrictions at their leisure under the guise of an "emergency".

While Governor Abbott did not take advantage of certain aspects of the emergency to control the sale, transportation, and use of firearms and ammunition, we the people should not rely on the good intentions of a governor to not infringe on our rights. A future governor with less respect for our rights could take advantage of the situation to attack our rights and turn the everyday citizen into a criminal for protecting themselves or their families during an emergency.

HB 1500 by Hefner would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration. It would also protect the people from municipalities trying to use disasters and emergencies to regulate the use of firearms, air guns, or knives in the case of an insurrection, riot, or natural disaster. We have seen in the last year times where groups like BLM and Antifa choose to wholesale destroy the property of people who were merely in the wrong place. This bill would also codify Attorney General Paxton's opinion that preemption law trumps a local governments' ability to shut down gun businesses.

Frances Carr

self

Fulshear, TX

You need to let people KEEP their guns and keep Beto away.....

Gary Hopkins, Chairman Pct. 37, Smith County

Smith County Precinct 37

Tyler, TX

I am in favor of this bill, as are many in my precinct. The governor does not and should not have the power to "regulate" firearms, ammunition, etc during "disasters" and "emergencies". We have a second amendment and I don't see anything in it, that allows any person or government to "infringe" on a citizen's right to keep and bear arms, especially during an "emergency"!! This bill will make sure the governor and certain political subdivisions know they do NOT have the right to violate the constitution.

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Thank you,

Gary Hopkins, Pct. 37

Violeta Donner, Mrs

Self

Montgomery, TX

I support this Bill. The Governor shall not have the right to regulate firearms, ammunition, knives , etc.
It is our inalienable right to determine this ourselves

David Wylie, SREC SD12

Republican Party of Texas

ARGYLE, TX

I am David Wylie, a member of the State Republican Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Texas from Senate District 12, and I live in Argyle Texas. I am representing the Republican Party of Texas.

I am speaking in support of HB 1500 today.

This bill will help to protect Texan's right to defend themselves in times of disaster or emergency. As we have experienced for the past year, just because an overreaching governor has never thought of taking away your right to defend yourself does not mean that they wont figure it out eventually. We need this bill to be law to protect our rights.

Please approve this bill so that it can be heard by the full House.

Thank you

David Wylie

RPT SREC SD12

POBox 1110

Argyle TX

817 247 2237

Lisa D

GOA TX

Dallas, TX

I SUPPORT this bill and expect TX Representatives to protect our freedoms & 2nd Amendment!!!

I, too, am grateful Gov. Abbott did not abuse his executive powers during the pandemic.

David Elliot, Mr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1500

A governor should not have the power to take away an essential liberty of self-protection. The governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the most recent disaster declarations; however, we shouldn't have to

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rely on a governor's goodwill to be able to defend ourselves. This kind of abuse was very apparent during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans where firearms were confiscated and people were left defenseless.

We must not allow state or local officials strip us of our Constitutional right of self-defense.

During the time of a natural disaster or riot, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves and others.

Allison Heyward

Self

Schertz, TX

I support this bill because the Governor nor Municipalities should not have discretion on firearms nor should he have control on the sell of, transportation on firearms, ammuniton and etc during a disaster. A disaster is usually the time I'll need to protect those items to protect my family.

Ferrando Heyward

Self

Schertz, TX

I support this bill.

Jonathan Heyward

Self

Schertz, TX

I support this bill

J. Robert Arnett II

Self. Attorney.

Dallas, TX

I urge passage of this bill. Citizens' right of self-defense is more important, not less, during disasters and emergencies. The events of the past summer highlight this point, when violent criminals ran rampant through our major cities, police were told to stand down and simply stood by and watched arson, looting, destruction of property, and beating of innocent citizens. In addition, at least one major city DA refused to prosecute these violent criminals. Closing gun stores and other restriction on the people's right to self-defense would leave innocent citizens to the mercy of violent criminals. Our right to self-defense should be protected by passage of this bill.

Mary Mims

None

Pflugerville, TX

Support!! We should've have to rely on the powers that be to give us permission to defend ourselves during a disaster or emergency!!

Craig Andress

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill because I don't believe the Governor or Municipalities should have the power to control firearms, and ammunition sells, transportation as storage during a disaster.

Sherry Barnes

Self retired pharmacist

Whitehouse, TX

I SUPPORT repealing the governor's ability to regulate the buying, selling, or use of guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration. The current governor believes in the ability of individuals to protect themselves especially in an emergency but subsequent governors might not

Julie Lucky

Self Business owner

Hickory Creek, TX

It is of utmost importance that we have protection as citizens of Texas against abuses of power by the Governor . As an American citizen, we have a right to bear arms in order to protect ourselves. Protecting the citizens from abuses of power related to firearms, ammunition, explosives etc should be top priority in case we ever need that protection.

Patricia Todd

Self retired nurse

Whitehouse, TX

I support this bill repealing the governor's ability to regulate guns and ammunition during an emergency or disaster

Deborah Avellano, Mrs.

Self

Corinth, TX

Chairman Paddie and Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I, Deborah Avellano, of Corinth, Texas (SD-12, HD-64), representing myself, address you in Support of HB1500 on the Governor's authority during Emergencies or Disasters. We are very grateful that Governor Abbott did not attempt to regulate firearm or ammunition sales in this pandemic. But as we have never before experienced the degree of emergency powers to be enforced, it is wise to create boundaries for those in authority when such times occur.

This bill would repeal a governor's ability to regulate the way we buy, sell, and use guns and ammo during a disaster or emergency declaration.

I respectfully request that you vote this bill out of committee and advance it to becoming law.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Avellano

Ruth York

Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; Texas Family Defense Committee; Self (Direct Sales)

Cisco, TX

I am Ruth York, testifying for Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, Texas Family Defense Committee, and myself, in support of HB 1500.

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We support this bill because we believe the words of the US Constitution: The right to keep and bear arms "shall not be infringed." That includes the Governor of Texas as well as other officials.

This is also a commonsense bill in that, during times of disaster, citizens may need to be armed against human and animal predators.

Please support passage of HB 1500.

Mark Randol

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Is see this as eliminating the ability for some government officials to interfere with the ability of Texans to obtain the tools needed to defend themselves during an emergency.

Margaret Cunningham, Ms

Self

Whitehouse, TX

I Support HB 1500. In times of an emergency, it is essential that our most fundamental of rights should not be taken away, amongst which, is our right to defend ourselves and our property. We must be able to carry and transport firearms if we are to defend ourselves. If we have to flee our homes, we need to be able to take our firearms and ammunition with us without it being declared illegal by our Governor. It would be reckless to leave these items behind, if forced to leave a residence, for possible looters to take. Our Constitution's 2nd Amendment gives us the right to keep and bear arms. It would be a shame for our Texas Governor to override our Constitutional rights in a time of crisis. Thank you for your time.