

**House Judiciary Committee
HB 175 - Unfavorable
March 1, 2021**

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I can appreciate the sentiment behind this bill. If a person is prohibited from buying a firearm, what legitimate purpose could they have for buying ammunition? There are two realities that this bill runs up against which compels me to ask for an unfavorable report.

The first is the nature of NICS itself and the federal law regarding its use. Simply put, NICS can only be used for checking the legality of a firearm transfer (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/nics/federal-firearms-licensees/nics-firearms-licensee-manual> page 30). It cannot be accessed for any other reason, and it must be accompanied by the requisite form 4473. NICS reform, including streamlining it and making it available to the wider public, is a broader topic on which I would love to engage, but beyond the scope of this committee hearing.

The second is the nature of purchasing restrictions. Waiting periods, fees, and additional paperwork ultimately burden those already disadvantaged in our society the most. It is inevitable that the effects of systemic racism, sexism, and classism are only amplified the more we demand that people interface with these systems in the exercise of their basic rights. People who look and talk like me will always be able to pass the background check, afford the fees, and fill out the paperwork. This bill would primarily disadvantage those who don't.

I urge the committee issue an unfavorable report on HB 175.

Thank you,
Andrew Seabrook