

February 25, 2021

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge a favorable report for HB068 and HB1291. You may hear from the opposition that these types of ghost guns are not used in crimes and the bills are not necessary. I assure you that they are and the need will only grow.

I am a Mechanical Engineering professor, and have worked in the field of Materials Science and Engineering for over 25 years. Additive manufacturing (3-D printing) is a technology that has accelerated unlike anything I have seen in my discipline, and has the potential to change how we do many, many things. At the touch of a button, we can print complicated plastic and metal parts, and combinations thereof. Designs for these parts are available for upload with a quick Google search.

As these 3-D printers become commonplace (you can already buy them at Home Depot), items we would typically purchase from a regulated vendor will be “built” on site. And while that represents a huge advantage for many industries, the production of unregulated, undetectable “home-made” weapons will become a dangerous new opportunity for some. The recent arrest of a Coast Guard Officer planning an attack found him with an arsenal containing components to build an untraceable AR-15, and other so-called “ghost guns.”<sup>1</sup>

This bill is a reasonable extension of current law to address the dangers that will arise from unregulated firearms produced in this way. Law-abiding permit holders should not be concerned about this bill.

Laws need to evolve with technology, as human evolution is often far behind. I urge a favorable vote on HB068 and HB1291.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.wsj.com/articles/coast-guard-officer-accused-of-planning-terror-attack-amassed-an-arsenal-11550789657>