
WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF KATIE NOVOTNY IN OPPOSITION OF
SB159

February 7, 2023

While I understand the desire for someone to be able to temporarily place themselves on a list that makes it unable to purchase a firearm, a system like that seems ripe for abuses and difficulties. First of all what if a person is coerced into signing up? Are the penalties steep enough to discourage someone attempting to sign someone else up? If they wish to be removed from the list, will the proposed process actually work in the time prescribed? What happens if there are delays? Is there recourse if the process exceeds the time laid out in the bill? Will that person need approval from someone to determine they are of sound mind to be removed from the list? What if there are bureaucratic delays? What if someone is put on the list erroneously? Either through accident or ill intent? All of these concerns need to be addressed.

Additionally, placing their names on a list with the state, only affects the purchase of handguns, since the MSP does that background check. Long guns are performed through NICS by the FFL. A voluntary list is not a prohibitor through NICS, so a name cannot be added and removed at will from that system. That prevents it from restricting sale through that system. Also, FFL's do not have access to the state databases.

If passed as written, would an FFL get in trouble for selling someone a long gun , even though they are on the list, but would have no way of knowing they are on a list? These are all serious questions that would need to be ironed out before passing this piece of legislation. The right to own firearms is not trivial.

I respectfully request an unfavorable report.

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