

UPPER PENINSULA SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE

PO Box 54
Quinnesec, Michigan 49876

President David Johnson

March 7, 2023

Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary Committee
VIA Email

RE: HB 4138, 4139, 4142, 4143, 4144, 4145 4146, 4147, 4148, 4149, 4150

To the Honorable Chair of the Judiciary Committee and Members,

Folks,

My name is David Johnson. I am the President of the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance (UPSA) and live in the Iron Mountain Area. The UPSA is an alliance of numerous Sportsman's Groups throughout the State. We have many thousands individual members involved in the outdoor sports including hunting, fishing and trapping and members involved in the forest industry including loggers and logging truck drivers.

I would love to address you in person, but the trip is about a 7 hour drive and I would be limited to 3-5 minutes to present our thoughts.

I have lived in both rural and urban areas through my career. You have to realize guns used in rural areas are a part of life and folks grew up using and respecting guns. Urban area use, other than those used for sporting activities, are primarily used for protection. If we have an urban issue, lets solve that issue at that level and not impose restraints on the remainder of the State.

I also am a retired Certified Financial Forensic. This has given me the opportunity to work with law enforcement on several cases of irregularities in the financial statements, fraud, and embezzlement. The law enforcement folks I have worked with are great at their jobs and would be hard pressed to find better and more dedicated people. Given this, law enforcement folks are the best **Historians** one can find. We give them a crime scene, white collar or other, and they are expected to collect sufficient evidence to determine what and how did a crime happen. Many times, without the ability to talk with the victims.

So I am sitting on my couch, the door fly's open, a gun pointed at me. Am I supposed to say "**HOLD ON, LET ME GET MY GUN, LET ME UNLOCK MY GUN AND NOW I NEED MY AMMO, AND BY THE WAY LET ME CALL 911**". Many folks live in areas that any police response will be more than 15 minutes, by that time the crime has been committed and the criminal has left the scene. Again, law enforcement is there to clean up and collect sufficient evidence to determine what and how a crime was committed.

We have to remember that crooks are brazen because they have some sort of advantage over the person they are interacting with. In many cases, it is the weapons they are using have multi shot magazines compared to hunting rifles and shotguns with a five shot maximum. It is too late to close the barn door now on those magazines already existing. If I am the homeowner, I want the same advantage as the guy coming through my door.

After all our Governor and Leaders all have folks with guns protecting them.

I would challenge each of you to go to the State Police range to understand how hard it is to hit a target without practice.

I have slept with firearms for almost 70 years now; not one of them has woke up and bit me.

Red Flag laws at first glance seem fine, but when a person looks closer at the red flags, this is the taking of personal property, second amendment property with out due process. The person whose weapons have been taken will have to spend significant money to have their legally purchased weapons returned.

Obtaining a license for a weapon in able to possess a weapon is at odds with the sporting community. To purchase a new weapon, and if the proposed laws are put in place, a list of weapons will be made as weapons are sold or transferred over time.

The Licenses will not stop folks from committing atrocities, look at homicides recently with knives, machetes, box trucks and the damage a pressure cooker created in Boston. The guns are not the cause of the issue, but the tool of choice. Let's look at the number of murders without gang activity or drugs. We need to address a much larger issue; it is one of mental health in our State and Country.

If requiring a license to travel with a weapon, this becomes troublesome with folks owning more than 10 licensable guns. I was contacted by a past client yesterday. She is a widow over 60 and use to have a home cleaning business. She has a collection of more than 70 guns and is always taking them back and forth to camp for shooting. Camps in the Upper Peninsula and rural areas are recreational and shooting is done year around. How would she keep track of the license for which gun she maybe transporting.

What will happen at the time this data base is hacked? It is not a matter of if but when? Will the dark web sell the info? Will these folks be targeted?

Licensing will dampen the passing of family heirlooms and the potential reduction in the hunting public over time.

The North American Wildlife Conservation Model in the United States and Canada, operates on seven interdependent principles:

1. Wildlife resources are conserved and held in trust for all citizens.
2. Commerce in dead wildlife is eliminated.
3. Wildlife is allocated according to democratic rule of law.
4. Wildlife may only be killed for a legitimate, non-frivolous purpose.
5. Wildlife is an international resource.

6. Every person has an equal opportunity under the law to participate in hunting and fishing.

Scientific management is the proper means for wildlife conservation.

The DNR has been experiencing a decline in license sales other than the COVID years. I would anticipate the sales will continue a declination as the ease of entry into the sport is increasingly complicated. We could be putting one of our best management tools on the shelf.

I have a CPL and very rarely carry my pistol other than trout fishing and going to certain parts of the State. If I happen to pass a State building in an area I am not familiar with, I am in danger of a crime.

We appreciate your concerns for the safety of our children; however, we do not understand how these bills would further protect the citizens of Michigan.

Regards,
David Johnson
President UPSA