

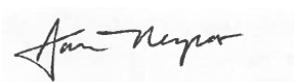
March 9, 2022

Veterans and Public Safety Committee  
Opponent Written Testimony  
Senate Bill 185  
Jan Nesor  
March 9, 2022

Dear Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Government Oversight Committee

I write again in opposition to SB185. Although it is framed as legislation protecting gun rights, SB185 in fact will undermine the right to act in public by creating situations in which peaceful protesters can be threatened and intimidated by armed antagonists. This legislation will make us unsafe, whereas current laws (including prohibitions on the sale of guns and ammo during a "crisis") are designed to keep us safe. As has been pointed out by others, under the proposed legislation any group holding any kind of peaceful protest or march could be surrounded or intimidated by people with guns, explosives, or other deadly weapons. If the police or other governmental officials were to attempt to take those weapons for the sake of safety, those officials could be legally sued for damages and other forms of relief. If protesters or provocateurs pretending to be protestors (a well-documented phenomenon, see, e.g., <https://tinyurl.com/y8jepeji>) engaged in anything that could be portrayed as violence or over-reaction against those with the weapons and those with weapons choose to use them, they would almost certainly claim a "stand your ground defense." This bill feeds into other legislation suppressing popular protest and enabling the operation of paramilitary groups who threaten our democracy. The bill should not pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Nesor", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Professor Jan Nesor