

To Chairman Peterson and members of the Government Oversight committee

I will be submitting my comments as written-only

My name is Damon Garza and I am writing this statement to voice my support for the Second Amendment Preservation Act, House Bill 51. The Second Amendment was written by our American forefathers after having just finished fighting a war for our independence against the tyrannical British government. Our founders had first hand experience of the need for private firearm ownership to fight against that tyranny and in response wrote this amendment. Today in the U.S., our own government seeks to limit, regulate and even do away with this amendment entirely which will lead to disarming the people of this country, subjecting them to violent crime with no means of self defense and allow tyranny to reign. This is why this legislation, House Bill 51, is essential.

In my lifetime, I have seen many things happen in the world, including but not limited to, mass shootings, violent crime, riots, violent mobs, a pandemic, war and the inability/disinterest of the government to protect us from these things. This highlights the increasing need to own a modern firearm (such as the AR15 with a standard capacity 30 round magazine) in today's world. As a minority, I am compelled to acknowledge the racist origins of gun control and how it correlates with the treatment of minorities at the hands of the government in the past. History has shown many times what happens when a populace is disarmed by its government and the subsequent tyranny, suffering, genocide that follows. However, as a law abiding citizen I am forced to submit to an endless set of rules and laws that are constantly changing, under threat of fine and imprisonment to force compliance, that criminals themselves do not obey.

Many people, especially in government, believe that the Second Amendment is outdated and irrelevant, that it was written to cover the formation of a standing government run army and only protects the private ownership of muskets and does not include modern firearms, especially those that the anti-gun lobby has deemed "dangerous". This could not be further from the truth. The Second Amendment is absolute and was written by the people, for the people and we the people, like our forefathers, are the militia. Technology changes but freedom and tyranny remain the same and the Second amendment must remain the same as well.

That is why I need the Second Amendment Preservation Act, to prevent a tyrannical government body (such as Congress and the ATF) from passing laws and rules that limit or remove my ability to defend myself, my loved ones and my fellow Americans with whatever firearm I wish.

God Bless

Damon Garza, a proud and free American