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Senate Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee
Senate Bill 235 Sponsor Testimony
Prohibit certain conduct that accelerates firearm's rate of fire
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Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein and members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for allowing me and Senator Craig the opportunity to bring this important piece of public safety legislation to you.

The need for this legislation arose from the deadliest mass shooting in our nation's history which occurred on October 1, 2017, during the third night of a country music festival in Las Vegas. The murderer used a bump stock which caused his semi-automatic weapon to shoot like a machine gun. Using the bump stock, he fired more than 1,000 rounds in 11 minutes onto a crowd of approximately 22,000. Nearly 60 people were killed and more than 700 were wounded.

Subsequently, in February 2018, the Trump administration published an executive order to ban bump stocks.

However, on June 14, 2024, the United States Supreme Court issued the 6-3 Cargill decision which said a firearm accessory called a bump stock would again be available for legal purchase **unless** states had specifically banned them. In doing so the US Supreme Court overturned a common-sense public safety policy that was enacted by President Trump.

When used a bump stock will cause a semi-automatic weapon to shoot like a machine gun. Machine guns have essentially been illegal in the United States since 1934.

Bump stock ban legislation has bipartisan support. Republicans and Democrats have teamed up to introduce legislation to ban them in both houses of Congress and bump stocks are illegal in sixteen states and Washington DC including those led by Republican governors such as Florida.

If machine guns are illegal in the US, then an accessory that turns guns into machine guns should be illegal too.

So the bad news is the Cargill decision overturned an executive order from President Trump which jeopardizes public safety and defies common sense. The good news is we can fix that wrong with Senate Bill 235 and I would ask the Committee to do so. We would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have.