

Alan Greenberg  
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LD 998

Dear Panel Members.

I would like to specifically address bills LD 677, 953 and 998. I will then address all the bills in general.

Bills LD 677 and 953 concern machine guns and rapid firing devices. Contrary to so much misinformation, a machine gun is very easily defined. "As long as the trigger is depressed, the firearm will continue to fire, until it runs out of ammunition."

Unfortunately, various states and government agencies keep changing the definition of a machine gun, in order to increase the scope of what is banned. You can call a banana an apple, but it's still a banana, not an apple. In my opinion, this is simply an abuse of power to bypass the democratic system.

Rapid firing devices. These devices do allow the firearm to be fired faster. However, it's a mechanical impossibility for the device to turn a semi automatic firearm into a machine gun. The person still has to manipulate the trigger for every shot. If you go online, you can see people who have such fast reflexes, it seems as if they are shooting a machine gun, while using a standard trigger. Will they be arrested if rapid firing devices are banned?

LD 998, relates to storing firearms in your personal vehicle while parked at your place of employment. As I understand the law, a firearm left in a vehicle must be secured and out of sight. So how would an employer know it's there? Will employers be given the right to search all employee vehicles, no search warrant required? I don't see any justification for this law.

I do agree that an employer does have the right to prohibit firearms inside the work place. However, if LD 998 passes, the employee would not be able to defend themselves or others in the event of an attack, while going to, or leaving work.

In general, the panel somehow believes penalizing and criminalizing law abiding firearms owners will stop criminals. Exactly how will any of the bills do that? It won't, and everyone knows that. However, which ever bill managed to become law, it will be announced how much safer society is, and that will be a false statement.

I'm tired of responsible law abiding firearms owners being treated as the threats. The problem is criminal use of firearms, and that is never being addressed. A quick internet search indicated firearms charges are dropped approximately 70% of the time. The person would be prosecuted on the other crimes. In most instances if a person is convicted of both the firearms charge, and another charge, the penalties run concurrently, not consecutively. The gun charge should never be dropped for expediency, and the penalty should always be consecutive. And make the firearm penalty stiff, say 10 years incarceration. At a minimum, this would give criminals something to think about.

Thank you for your time on this important issue. We need to address the problem, not the tool.

I'm a concerned Registered Nurse.