



NEVADA FIREARMS COALITION

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March 13, 2013

RE: SB 221

Dear Senator Jones,

Thank you for your email response to our position on SB 221. We certainly appreciate all the effort you have put into the development of this bill and the personal angst that prompted it.

Personally, I served as a law enforcement officer for thirty years and like you, have personal relationships with those who suffer from bipolar disorder, clinical depression, and who work in suicide prevention programs. To date, we haven't seen any proposals that get to the root of the problem which is getting the people the help they need.

Our proposed alternative language to this bill is the creation of a commission of a panel of mental health care professionals, who are tasked with the duty to study the mental health system; to review current treatment and reporting options against the existing system; to make recommendations for changes to the entire system while preserving the Constitutional freedoms of the patient and the public.

Dr. Grossman has sufficiently documented in his work "Stop Teaching our Children how to Kill" that the blame may lie on the violent entertainment and video game industry. Dr. John Lott's work "More Guns less Crime" documents the beneficial aspects of the ownership and use of firearms for public safety. Other reports have pointed questions at the use of prescription psychotropic drugs on youth, and others to the failure of the family and parental responsibility. This bill will not solve any of these issues.

Currently there exists a \$25.00 tax which is collected by the NVDPS as a fee for use of the NCIS background checks. This approximately 2 million dollars a year could be used for this comprehensive study.

This proposed bill is analogous to curing the alcoholic by taking away alcohol. Nothing is accomplished except the horrors and evil that was created by the well-intended and misdirected prohibition of the 1920's. One would think that we would have learned our lesson by that failed experiment.

Helping the mentally ill by well-meaning but ineffective attempts to ban guns will have the same effects as prohibition. There are over 110 gun laws now in statute in Nevada; it would seem that at least one of these would work, if criminals and the mentally unstable were inclined to follow the law. A case in point is the Sandy Hook travesty. The owner of the firearms was murdered and the firearms used in that rage crime were stolen. Nothing in your bill will prevent that from occurring in the future.

As we are a Constitutional Republic, it is necessary that solutions to issues be found within the context of the Constitution. That should be our starting point for all legislation. To do no harm to the Constitution nor to the law abiding citizens that follow it, and in our case to those public officials who have taken a solemn oath to protect it.

Therefore, although your bill is well intentioned, our reason for opposition is that it violates both those provisions of Constitutional protection and the right of due process.

An unintended consequence of your bill, which was not articulated in our previous letter, is that the federal NICS system requires that all names submitted to the system come from court adjudicated sources. Consequently some of the provisions in your bill negate the ability to use the national NCIS system.

As we mentioned in our position letter another unintended consequence will be to refrain those who may need mental health services to seek it because of the severity of the consequences that may occur.

When we see a bill that will help the mentally ill without infringing on Constitutional and Civil Rights, we will support it fully. Until then, the current bill is seriously flawed and should not proceed any further in the system.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and for your desire to assist the mentally ill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Turner", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Don Turner, President