

NH State Representative John A. Burt

7 Bay Street, Goffstown, NH 03045 john@burtNH.com 603-624-5084 Home 603-289-0792 Cell

September 18, 2019

The Honorable President Donald J. Trump President of the United States of America The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As elected officials we are deeply concerned about random acts of violence and mass shootings taking place in public spaces. We're sure that you share our concerns that while abhorrent in every respect, these criminal acts do not represent the actions and values of the vast number of law abiding American gun owners.

The real truth is that over the past several decades, Americans have benefited from a steady decline in property and violent crime rates. Criminologists rightfully attribute this decline to the expansion, during the same period of time, of private gun ownership and right to carry laws across America which enable people to take responsibility for their personal safety.

Time and time again, American history has proven that government is the problem not the solution. The US Supreme Court ruled in Bowers v. Devito, 686 F. 2d. 616, 618 (7th cir. 1982) that the police have no duty to provide protection services to citizens. Thus, citizens are on their own to defend against violent criminals and firearms are the best tool with which to do so. Americans, by their very nature are self reliant.

Some of the mass murderers have said they actually feared coming into contact with armed, law-abiding Americans as the reason they chose to attack innocent people in "gun free zones" when planning their murder sprees. The facts show that close to 98% of mass shootings over the past several decades have taken place in "gun free zones". You even acknowledged this fact in your public remarks.

We are concerned that Congress is not concentrating on correcting the documented problem of "gun free" or criminal safe zones.

Furthermore, to make things worse, some members of Congress are floating the idea of using Federal dollars to force states to adopt so called "red flag" laws to forcibly disarm law abiding people. These proposals are gross violations of the Second, Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights of American citizens.

Maryland has such a "red flag" law and in Ferndale, Maryland, a 60-year-old man was shot to death by police serving a "red flag" order. Gary Willis did what many gun owners would do when he heard people at his door at 5:17 AM – he answered the door with a firearm and was shot to death by law enforcement officers who were attempting to serve a "red flag" gun confiscation order. The order was issued after a disgruntled relative told the court that he was a danger.

Even if the gun owner survives the confiscation – she may not be able to financially survive the legal system in order to regain custody of her property.

In the states that have these so called "red flag" laws, there is no true due process because the accused does not have an opportunity to question the accuser *before* the firearms are taken. The orders are issued ex-parte by a judge. This creates a dangerous situation for the accused, law enforcement, and the public. We are also concerned that that "red flag" laws do not provide for those who are falsely accused to sue their accusers for knowingly misrepresenting the facts. It is close to impossible to predict when or where these random acts of evil will occur. Therefore, it makes sense to enable the law abiding to defend themselves wherever they might be. We urge you to push congress to send H.R. 38 – The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2019 and H.R. 3200 – the Safe Student Act to you for your signature without any further delay. Guns – in the hands of the law abiding people save lives and these two bills have the potential to save many lives.

Instead of stripping law abiding citizens of their constitutional rights and placing them in fear with these so called "red flag" laws, let's use this opportunity to do the right thing and make would be mass murderers fear for their safety.

Thanks for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

John A. Burt

New Hampshire State Representative

Hillsborough - District 39

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Judy Aron, NH State Representative Sullivan County District

Linda Rea Camarota, NH State Representative,

Hillsborough-District 7

Kevin Craig, New Hampshire State Representative,

Coös County District 4

Dan Davis, New Hampshire State Representative, Rockingham-District 16.

George Feeney, New Hampshire State Representative,

Belknap District 5

Bob Greene, New Hampshire State Representative Hillsborough – District 37

Joe Guthrie, New Hampshire State Representative, Rock 13

Deborah Hobson, New Hampshire State Representative, District

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James F. Horgan, New Hampshire State Representative, Farmington, District 2

Raymond J Howard, Jr, New Hampshire State Representative, Hand Jano

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Tony Lekas, New Hampshire State Representative,

Hillsborough – District 37

Jody L. McNally, New Hampshire State Representative, Strafford County, District 10

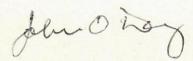
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Grafton County, District 9

John O'Day New Hampshire State Representative Cheshire- District 11



John M. Potucek New Hampshire State Representative Rockingham District 6 - Derry

Mark L. Proulx, New Hampshire State Representative,

Hillsborough - District 44

Andrew Renzullo, New Hampshire State Representative

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Skip A. Rollins, New Hampshire State Representative,

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Paul J. Somero

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Doug Thomas, New Hampshire State Representative, District

Peter Varney, New Hampshire State Representative, Belknap-District 5

Rep Scott Wallace, New Hampshire State Representative,

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Mark Warden, New Hampshire State Representative

Hillsborough - District 15

Michael Yakubovich, New Hampshire State Representative,

Merrimack – District 24 Michael Vakubovich

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