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Senator John Barrasso
2 N Main St, Ste. 206
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

RE: HR 2640

Dear Senator Barrasso:

It is troublesome that I feel compelled to write this letter. Troublesome because HR 2640, as I read it, will deny thousands of American combat veterans the right to possess, own and carry a firearm. This bill strips Americas finest of their rights under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.

While at the Veterans Hospital at Ft. Meade a few weeks ago, I was approached by five Vietnam Veterans who were waiting for their group session to start(PTSD). One of the Veterans knew I was an attorney and had been a judge in Wyoming. The question put to me was would they lose their Second Amendment Rights under HR 2640. It was lucky that I had read portions of this bill so I could give them a tentative answer. That answer was "You probably will loose your rights under the Second Amendment". Four of the five men had concealed weapons permits, three from South Dakota and one from Wyoming. The fifth gentlemen was an avid hunter and owned rifles. Concealed weapons permits issued by the State of Wyoming are done after an exhaustive Federal, State, and local records and back ground checks. I have been told that South Dakota goes through the same back ground checks as Wyoming.

I could go through HR 2640 in this letter in great detail, but I know you have or will screen this bill with a fine tooth comb, so I will direct the remainder of this letter to my 38 years dealing with people suffering from PTSD and those not. As you know I have been a private attorney, part time court commissioner and part time Juvenile Court Referee in California. In Wyoming I have been a private attorney, a prosecutor, a County Court Judge, and a Senior Assistant Public Defender.

I have testified in court on the issue of a persons mental state. Due to the nature of my profession I have read much on dysfunctional psychology as well as observing this issue first hand. It has been my experience that those suffering from PTSD are no more

likely to do harm to themselves or to others than a “normal” person. In fact, those suffering from PTSD and have sought help are less likely to do harm to themselves or others than “normal” folks.

This bill is a double blow to those with PTSD. The 83,000 veterans diagnosed with PTSD, never given due process, had their names added to the Brady Instant Check Data Base to prevent these veterans from buying guns. HR 2640 will by law prevent this class of people from buying, owning or possessing guns. More names of veterans will be added to this list with the billion dollars called for in the bill.

I would request that you consider the harm this bill will do to law abiding citizens who have served their country and now suffer from PTSD. A no vote seems to be the only vote appropriate for this bill.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Walter A. Murray, Jr.
Attorney At Law

cc: Larry Pratt
Gun Owners of America