

# Guide to Talking about Pro-Second Amendment Legislation

## General tips:

1. Be respectful
2. Keep your comments short and to the point (60 seconds or less)
3. Be very specific about what you want your lawmaker to do
  - a. "I'd like you to vote Yes on bill number XYZ because..."
  - b. "Please vote No on file ABC because..."
4. Be polite but persistent. If a politician doesn't give you a direct answer, don't be afraid to respectfully repeat the question and ask them for a straight answer
  - a. "Sir/Ma'am, I'd appreciate it if you'd give me a direct answer. Will you vote Yes or No on this bill?"
5. Bring a friend. There's strength in numbers.
6. If you can, try to record your exchange. A recording is a great way hold lawmakers accountable for their promises
7. Repeat step one!

## Pro-Second Amendment Bills:

### ***SJR2 - Constitutional RKBA Amendment***

- Sponsors: Senators: ZAUN, ANDERSON, BEHN, BERTRAND, BREITBACH, BROWN, CHAPMAN, CHELGREN, COSTELLO, DAWSON, DIX, EDLER, FEENSTRA, GARRETT, GREENE, GUTH, C. JOHNSON, KAPUCIAN, KRAAYENBRINK, LOFGREN, ROZENBOOM, SCHNEIDER, SCHULTZ, SEGEBART, SHIPLEY, SINCLAIR, SMITH, WHITVER, and ZUMBACH

- ◆ SJR2 inserts a modern version of the Second Amendment into the Iowa Constitution
- ◆ Iowa is one of only six states in the country whose citizens right to keep and bear arms (RKBA) is not guaranteed in its state constitution.
- ◆ SJR2's language would make it crystal clear (in modern language) that Iowans RKBA shall not be limited, taxed, licensed or infringed upon in anyway.

*Everyone says they support the Second Amendment, amending the state constitution to include the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is the very best way to prove you actually support the Second Amendment.*

### ***HF147 - Permit-less Carry***

- Sponsors: Representatives: SALMON, WHEELER, HAGER, SHEETS, and HOLT

- ◆ This bill removes the requirement that a person carry a valid Permit to Carry.
- ◆ What other constitutionally guaranteed right do I need a permit for? My right to free speech? No. My right to be free illegal search and seizure? No. My right to worship? No.

*I can exercise all of my other constitutionally protected freedoms without having to ask the state for permission EXCEPT my right to keep and bear arms.*

### ***HF162 - Parking Lot Bill***

- Sponsor: Representative Fisher

- ◆ Prohibits employers from banning their staff from storing firearms in their vehicle while parked at their place of employment
- ◆ By law vehicles are considered an extension of personal property (the same as your home), thus employees should be able to store their firearms in their car while at work.

## Guide to Talking about Pro-Second Amendment Legislation

- ◆ Employer bans on carrying at work should stop when an employee enters his/her personal property (i.e. vehicle)
- ◆ Current bans on guns in vehicles effectively block many Iowa residents from exercising their law right to carry and places outside of work.
- ◆ *If I'm running errands before work, but I'm banned from leaving my carry gun in my car at work, I can't realistically carry while out running errands because where would I leave my gun when I get to work? This basically forces me to be unprotected and unable to defend myself or my loved ones while out in public.*

### **SF25 - Stand Your Ground**

- Sponsor: Senator Chelgren

- ◆ Under Iowa's current law if someone is attacked they have a "duty to retreat," meaning they have to try to run away
- ◆ SF25 would remove that duty to retreat.
- ◆ This is not about "shoot first" it's about giving people the legal option to defend themselves and their loved ones should they be attacked and victimized  
*Under current law if I'm attacked and use justifiable force to defend myself or my loved ones I could still be indicted and tried for the crime of failing to retreat because a prosecutor alleges that I should have run away. Of course, that prosecutor was not present at the time of the attack and is certainly not able to properly evaluate the near instantaneous decision I had to make under the surprise, shock and fear of being attacked.  
This is Monday morning quarterbacking and victim blaming of the worst kind.*

### **SF108 - Repealing Iowa's Offensive Weapons List (Repealing NFA Ban)**

- Sponsor: Senator Schultz

- ◆ Removes Iowa's ban on: Short Barreled Rifles (SBRs), Short Barreled Shotguns (SBSs), and machine guns
- ◆ Iowans wanting to purchase these items would still be subject to federal gun laws (National Firearms Act, aka NFA) which require additional FBI background checks, waiting periods and tax stamps
- ◆ Current items like SBRs and SBSs are subject to arbitrary barrel length restrictions. *Why is a 16 inch barrel more deadly than a 14.5 inch barrel?*
- ◆ Brings Iowa in-line with a majority of other states whose citizens are free to own these items. *These items would be treated just like suppressors (which were legalized in Iowa in 2016). The same restrictions apply to these items apply.*

### **SF146 - School Parking Lot Carry**

- Sponsor: Senator Chapman

- ◆ Allows Iowans to carry while in their vehicle and in a school parking lot.
- ◆ Current law says you're committing a felony if you happen to be carrying while dropping your kids off at school

## **Guide to Talking about Pro-Second Amendment Legislation**

- ◆ *This would allow parents like me to not have to risk felony charges while simply performing their parental duties like dropping our kids off at school.*

### **SF147 - Permit Privacy**

- Sponsor: Senator Chapman

- ◆ Blocks Iowa sheriff's departments and the Iowa Department Public Safety from releasing any personal information about individual Permit to Carry holders -- i.e. name/social security number/date of birth/driver's license number/etc.
- ◆ Still allows the release of statistical information - e.g. Iowa saw a 15% increase in Permit to Carry holders in 2017 --OR-- Johnson County had 5,000 new Permit to Carry licenses issued in 2017.

*This keeps the media from publishing the personal information of law-abiding Permit to Carry holders. This has happened before in Polk and Dubuque Counties when every permit holder there had their names and addresses published for no legitimate reason.*

# Guide to Talking about Pro-Second Amendment Legislation

## Anti-Second Amendment Bills:

### **HF70 - Ban on magazines over 10 rounds**

- Sponsor: Representatives: HUNTER, LENSING, OLDSO, STAED, BENNETT, and MASCHER
- ◆ History shows that many self-defense shootings involve more than 10 rounds
- ◆ How do you, or anyone for that matter, know how many rounds will be needed if/when I'm attacked?

*Why would you want to limit my ability to defend myself from a potential murderer or rapist?*

### **HF73 - Universal Background Checks (UBCs)**

- Sponsors: Representatives: HUNTER, KEARNS, LENSING, OLDSO, STAED, BENNETT, and MASCHER
- ◆ Punishes all law-abiding citizens for the actions of deranged individuals (mass shooters)  
*UBCs do not stop mass shooters. Here's a list of mass shootings where the murderer passed a background check:*
  - *Pulse Night Club in Orlando - 2016*
  - *Charleston Church - 2015*
  - *Washington Naval Yard - 2013*
  - *Aurora movie theatre - 2012*
  - *Gabby Giffords shooting in Arizona - 2010*
  - *Fort Hood - 2009*
  - *Virginia Tech - 2007*

### **HF145 - Universal Background Checks (UBCs)**

- Sponsor: Representative Abdul-Samad
- ◆ See response to HF73

### **HF157 - Assault Weapons Ban**

- Sponsor: Representative Abdul-Samad
- ◆ "Assault-weapons" are used in less than 2% of all crimes
- ◆ The number of "assault weapons" used in crime is so-low the FBI doesn't even track the number of "assault weapons" used in crimes. They group them in with all rifles - bolt action, lever action, single shot, etc. (which combined is still just 2% of all crimes committed with a firearm)
- ◆ A U.S. Department of Justice study conducted on the 1994-2004 federal assault weapons ban concluded: "We cannot clearly credit the ban with any of the nation's recent drop in gun violence"
- ◆ Millions of "assault weapons" owned by perfectly peaceful, law-abiding Iowans  
*Banning them would do nothing to lower Iowa's crime rate.*

## Glossary:

Bill - Proposed legislation under consideration by the legislature

Funnel - Deadlines for bills be voted on. If a bill hasn't reached a specific point by the funnel date, it's dead for the rest of the session.

HF - House File

RKBA - Right to Keep and Bear Arms

SBRs - Short Barrel Rifle

SBSs - Short Barrel Shotgun

# **Guide to Talking about Pro-Second Amendment Legislation**

SF - Senate File

SJR - Senate Joint Resolution

UBC - Universal Background Checks