

Dear Members of the Committee:

On March 2, 2023 MiLive sent out the following Letter from the Editor: Stripped of emotion, gun violence is but a problem to be solved. Your responses show we're ready to take it on

I am the reader named Mark who stripped the emotion from it: "I am an engineer. I am looking at a mass shooting as a process with multiple paths and solution development as a well-designed and timely process. Go big/comprehensive. The pieces need to work and work together. Effectively dialogue with Michiganders throughout solution development."

The purpose of this letter is to start building on the concluding statement - "Exactly: A problem to be solved. And I feel this exercise in constructive dialogue is a good start. Stay tuned for more."

I cannot determine if I should support the proposed legislation. I strongly oppose it in the current form. The entire set of laws is like a PVC pipe continually patched with duct tape. The proposed legislation would simply remove some more damaged PVC and add more duct tape. Eventually the pipe is essentially duct tape with PVC here and there and will fail. Starting from scratch, repealing then replacing, as opposed to amending is in my opinion the only solution.

#### Red-Flag Laws (any references to other laws should be hyperlinked)

People are concerned that it will become very easy to take one's guns. I have tried to follow the chain of laws relating to restraining orders and mental health. The chain of laws is too complex to follow.

- What is the procedure that will be applied?
- What (including level of intensity) relationship with the individual is required?
- Under what conditions will it remain on one's record? For how long? Is expungement possible?
- What are the rights of the accused? How can they exercise them?

#### Preventing Unauthorized Use (including by children)

The secure gun provision in the combination of proposed laws is a joke. I could do a stand-up comedy routine on them. Immediate control is not defined. Separation of ammunition, firearm and firing mechanism is non existent.

- What does in direct and immediate control of the responsible person mean? I think examples are needed in the dialog with Michiganders.
- What are the expectations of being secured to prevent unauthorized use? I remember being in an Explorer Post (40 years ago) - the rifles, the bolts and the ammunition were locked up separately (including different keys).
- When and under what conditions can a parent or otherwise authorized responsible adult teach a child about gun safety and how to use a gun? While working at a summer camp our gun safety instruction was so good we had campers returning "live BB's" to us.
- The last time I made a blanket statement I said "blanket statements are stupid". Therefore I feel the exceptions need to be addressed. Could a police officer secure their weapon in a locked box in close proximity and take a shower with the keys around their neck?

I am a strong supporter of both the Second Amendment and Gun Control. I can't remember who first said this but I believe with every right comes a responsibility - if one fails in their responsibility the associated right may be lost. In that spirit I believe driving is a right not a privilege. To get a drivers license I have the responsibility to prove I can safely drive, to maintain the license I have certain responsibilities determined by law. Based on this perspective, the following need to be addressed before the legislation is acceptable.

#### License Requirements

- What requirements are being proposed?
- What is the training plan/requirements?
- What are the proposed renewal requirements?

- What fees will be imposed? How can we ensure this is not discriminatory?

#### Background Checks

- How will mental health be used as a criterion? Will anyone having seen, or currently seeing, a therapist be banned? Will anyone who has or is taking mental health medication be banned?
- How will a past record be used as a criterion? Will anyone who has been arrested be banned? What about someone who was either exonerated or had charges dismissed? Is expungement possible?
- Who conducts the background check? What is the appeal process?

#### Possession Limitations

There is nothing about the number of loaded firearms or amount of ammunition one can have in their immediate possession or purchase.

- Will there be limits to the number of loaded weapons in one's possession?
- Will there be limits to the amount of ammunition in one's possession?
- Will the purchase of ammunition require a license? Will there be a limit to how much can be purchased?

#### Criminal Penalties

The penalties for violating the proposed laws are either too lenient or do not make sense. Almost 30 years ago two married ministers in my home town went to dinner. One of their sons shot and killed the other one, with one of the four unsecured and loaded guns in the house. I said they should go to jail for at least the same amount of time as a single parent, living in a crime ridden neighborhood whose child fired the only (unfortunately loaded) gun out the window while the parent was in the shower. Almost, if not everyone, told me I was being cruel and the parents suffered enough. I cannot figure out how the proposed set of laws address this discretionary loop hole.

- What level of felony or misdemeanor will apply? What other crimes are at the same level?
- What are aggravating or mitigating factors? How are these accounted for in sentencing?
- What is the impact of conviction over the person's lifetime?

I want to take action but have never been presented with adequate information from my representatives, or government/advocacy websites. For example the response from the Governor when I asked why the state police were going to focus on speeding instead of following too close never addressed my question. It focused on police reform and other unrelated issues. I wish that my representatives in government and advocacy groups through their websites would focus on the details of this issue throughout the solution development.

Respectfully Yours,  
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