

Bill Sprano

1/17/13
revised

Do criminals follow the laws we have? and do you expect that drug dealers, and addicts looking for cash, to get their next fix are going to follow any of the proposed regulations?

Self Defense is a Natural right, a right that each human is born with. It is a right that is not forfeit, or lost just because you have entered a restaurant or bar. A restriction of this type, is only followed by those like myself who are respectful, law abiding citizens. The thieves will only have more, easy to rob targets with this proposal.

Beyond that I have a Natural right of self defense, ***Pistols, are protected as self defense weapons according to the Supreme Court of the United States, in the Heller case.***

Wcax news quote Aug 11th 2013

"The goal is to get the guns out of the hands of people looking to do harm, not to take it away from people that are looking for self-defense or sport," said Rachel Siegel, P-Burlington City Council.

Prohibiting guns in certain places, does in fact prevent people from self defense.

Two personal experiences that make my point. Back in the early 90's I came to Burlington 1-2 time per week to "hit the bars". I often played pool, danced with the ladies, and had a few beers. One of those nights when I had won a fair amount of money from a couple people, I left around 12:30 only to find 3 people waiting for me between the bar and my car, they wanted the money back!! One had a souvenir bat, one a tire iron, and the third had a machete. What are the chances that I come out of that unharmed?..... very good that night, because I had my pistol with me and only had to draw it so they could see what it was.

Less than two years later, after having dinner out with friends who lived in Burlington at the time, I stopped outside their apartment said goodnight and headed the 2 blocks to my car, half way there two guys with knives jump out and demand my wallet, threatening to kill me if I did not get it fast enough. Again I drew my pistol and they ran, one leaving me a fairly nice hunting knife. In BOTH Instances this proposal will prevent me from defending myself properly, and likely end up with me being seriously hurt, or killed.

Meaning that the proposal to ban guns in bars and restaurants does in fact put me at risk, and violates my Natural Right of Self defense.

When was the last shooting in a Burlington Bar or Restaurant? 20 years ago? so what problem are you really trying to address that is not already covered by another law?

The CDC Study mandated by President Obama, has the use of guns for self defense as high as TEN times as often as used for a crime.

Vermont already has the best record for violent crime going all the way back to the first year of statistics collection on the subject, maintaining one of the highest gun ownership levels the entire time, hardly a coincidence.

A Congressional Research Service (CRS) report shows that while gun ownership climbed from 192 million firearms in 1994 to 310 million firearms in 2009, crime fell—and fell sharply.

"firearm-related murder and non-negligent homicide" rate was 6.6 per 100,000 Americans in 1993. This figure fell to 3.2 per 100,000 by 2011. Additionally, the overall murder rate dropped from 9.0 per 100,000 in 1994 to 4.7 in 2011.

Meaning that while ownership climbed by 60%, Both the Overall, and Gun related murder rates dropped by More than 50%

Again hardly a coincidence.

SAFE STORAGE is un-enforceable unless you plan to violate every citizens 4th amendment rights by doing house to house searches. Additionally the the definition of immediate possession or control is Highly subjective, meaning I could consider it within my control and 10 officers would agree with me, and 10 officers would not.

This same 4th amendment problem applies to the Domestic Abuse proposal, in addition to the fact that if the police feel in danger, they already have the right to Temporarily disarm a suspect. If charges are being pressed and a Relief from Abuse issued, and it is believed they will harm their spouse/partner, then would it not be prudent to HOLD THEM? let them cool off, and have them evaluated by a psychologist before releasing them? Taking all the guns from the house may end up leaving the victim defenseless should the perpetrator return.

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