



TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Assembly Bill 293: Making WI a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State

Thank you members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs for allowing me to speak on this important bill today and how it will benefit and protect the citizens of Wisconsin.

“The right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.” As Americans we are guaranteed this right, but in recent months and years our politicians and elites have decided that we no longer should be able to defend ourselves. With statements such as, “Hell yes we are going to take your AR-15” from former congressman Beto O’Rourke to President Obama saying “I don’t believe people should be able to own guns.”

This bill would prohibit the state government and local law enforcement agencies from confiscating firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition that are legally owned and made in Wisconsin. It would also prohibit state public funds and state employees from assisting in the confiscation of legally owned, 2nd Amendment protected firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition.

According to Small Arms Analytics, in 2020 nearly 23 million guns were purchased. This is a huge surge when compared to 2019 when only 13.9 million were purchased. The National Shooting Sports Foundation estimates that last summer alone 40% of new gun buyers were women and that the largest demographic of buyers were African Americans.

The 2nd amendment is the right that guarantees every other right. You cannot cherry pick the rights you agree with and the ones that you do not. Could you imagine if we as politicians were to tell people that they no longer had the freedom of speech, they could no longer exercise their religion or protest? Both sides of the aisle would immediately realize that this was wrong.

The 2nd amendment absolutely applies to the individual and not just the people as a whole. We wouldn’t say for example that only a group of people are free from unreasonable search and seizures or that only as a group can the 5th amendment be invoked. The U.S. Constitution is a document restricting the government from infringing on the individual rights of the people.

All of us took an oath to not only defend our United States Constitution but also our Wisconsin Constitution which states in Article I, section 25, “The people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose.”

AB 293 protects Wisconsinites from a tyrannical and overreaching federal government that has talked about confiscating legally owned firearms. 11 other states have enacted these kinds of



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laws and 17 other states have proposed bills like this. In a time where there are public calls to abolish the police and politicians are openly saying they want to take your guns, it is not only important but it is my duty to uphold my oath of office to protect our individual rights.

Again, I appreciate your time and consideration of this important legislation and look forward to all of us upholding the oath we took.



MARY FELZKOWSKI

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony on AB 293

Chairman Swearingen and members of the Committee on State Affairs:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on AB 293, which would make Wisconsin a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State.

Before we get started, I would like to make one thing clear. The United States Constitution was written to protect the American people from the government. Let me say that one more time, so nobody is confused: The United States Constitution was written to protect the American people from the government.

When our forefathers penned their names at the bottom of this sacred document, they attested to the pain and suffering that our ancestors endured from a tyrannical overlord. They wanted to ensure that human beings would never again be persecuted by the same people that they entrusted to lead our great country.

Since its ratification in 1778, the United States Constitution has been amended 27 times – creating a more free nation, of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Undoubtedly, our country has changed in the last 243 years. Society has evolved, technology has advanced, and the size of government has gotten exponentially bigger. But through all of it, some things remain the same. You have the right to speak your mind, the press has the right to report without censure, the people have the right to peacefully assemble, the accused have the right to due process, and law-abiding Americans have the right to bear arms – which shall not be infringed.

In 1998, the people of Wisconsin elaborated on these protections by voting to create Section 25 of the Wisconsin State Constitution – ensuring that they have “the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation, or any other lawful purpose.”

AB 293 doubles down on that promise and clarifies that what’s best for Wisconsin is what the people of Wisconsin want.

As the federal government continues their habit of dictating by executive orders, Wisconsinites deserve assurances that their self-protection and way of life aren’t at stake because of political agendas. They need to know that these rights aren’t given to them by the government, they naturally possess them, and the Constitution is what protects them.

Every session we all raise our right hand and swear to uphold both our state and federal constitutions. I’m proud to say that I have.



May 25, 2021

RE: Testimony on AB293 to the Committee on State Affairs

Committee members, and fellow Wisconsinites, I testify today on behalf of Wisconsin Gun Owners, Inc.

As of late, we have seen unprecedented attacks on our right to bear arms from Washington D.C., and that is why I am here to make sure that our members' voices and the sentiments of the thousands upon thousands of gun owners in the State of Wisconsin are heard in this chamber. They all repeat the same message, "Protects our gun rights from a belligerent Federal government!"

For example, the DOJ issued a new "rule" on "ghost guns." The DOJ, an Executive agency, is changing the definition of words within the GCA (Gun Control Act-1968) and NFA (National Firearms Act-1934). But last time I checked, we have a separation of powers? So, why do the DOJ and ATF get to redefine words within a law, essentially and fundamentally changing the law? Is this not an example of a bureaucracy legislating, doing away with the separation of powers and representation?

Secondly, proposals for "red-flag" legislation have been rampant for years. Due process is a fundamental part of our Republican form of government, which red-flag legislation would bypass in the name of "safety." We know red-flag laws allow anyone from a jilted lover, political enemy, or disgruntled neighbor to report you for gun confiscation, on no more than hearsay and without a trial.

As 2020 saw a marked increase in gun ownership up to nearly 5 million new gun owners, most guns purchased were semi-auto. Most modern firearms are semi-auto — one trigger pull, one bullet—this most popular style of firearm is on Biden's chopping block. A semi-auto ban would turn Americans into felons overnight, to the tune of at least 15 million AR-15 owners, not to mention semi-auto handguns, semi-auto shotguns, and others.

The riots of 2020 were a wake-up call to ordinary Citizens. It was as if we all collectively rediscovered the meaning of the Second Amendment. But, with the growing demands for defunding police and reimagining public safety, why would we allow the Federal government to limit our Citizens' ability to defend themselves with whatever arms they see fit?

Republican or Democrat, the legislature's job is to represent the will of the people, not the will of their party. Not only that, but our Wisconsin Constitution enumerates, "The people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose." That is why I am asking for bi-partisan support for AB 293 — Second Amendment Sanctuary for Wisconsin, as the first line of defense from a lawless Federal government. Thank You.

Thomas Leager
Executive Director