

From: [Ann Gifford](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 136 -- please do not approve
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 9:45:31 AM

Dear House Community and Regional Affairs Committee members,

I am a retired attorney and long-time resident of Juneau AK. I'm opposed to SB 136 because I believe that it would unwisely tie the hands of our governor and local officials when they most need flexibility to respond to natural disasters and other catastrophes. After an earthquake or flood, for example, there can be a need to restrict access to particular areas or to impose curfews to prevent looting. There can also be a need to set up temporary shelters, soup kitchens and field hospitals as first response efforts. Restricting the carrying or use of firearms at those places and times can be an important tool to protect public safety and maintain order. I think if we were to forbid our leaders to use that tool we would come to regret it later.

I'm also concerned about giving favored status to commercial enterprises like gun shops and shooting ranges. I understand that the impetus for this bill came from complaints about the temporary closure or threatened closure of those enterprises during the pandemic because they were not deemed "essential." The types of services that are considered essential can vary depending on the nature of an emergency and even on the nature of a particular pandemic. I cannot fault our leaders for closing most shops and services to try to contain the spread of Covid 19, especially in the early days when we didn't know exactly how it was transmitted. Books are essential to me, but I understand why bookstores and libraries had to close. Why should a gun shop take precedence over a book shop? Why should a firing range take precedence over a library or gym? Please don't make decisions driven by economic protectionism.

SB 136 would do nothing to promote public safety and order during an emergency. Please do not approve this bill.

Thank you for your service to our State. Sincerely, Ann Gifford

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Ann Gifford
Juneau, Alaska
(907) 723-7128

From: [Timothy Thomas](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 136
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 9:39:03 AM

Hello,

I would like to testify against SB 136. Really? This is what is being debated in the legislature?

- Alaska is subject to earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanos, wildfire, flooding, and other natural disasters. A time of disaster is a time when life and business do not proceed as usual – and it is not possible to predict all situations that might require action by our elected leaders to protect public safety. During a state of emergency, the focus should be on actions that protect public safety, not limiting state and local governments’ power to maintain order and safety.
- We give leaders special powers in disaster situations because they must be able to move quickly and take decisive actions to protect public health and safety. For example, it could be important to limit possession or use of firearms in certain areas to prevent them from being stolen, or to ensure safety in public shelters managed by the military, a government agency or the Red Cross. This bill seems to prevent law enforcement from taking these common sense steps to provide for public safety and ensure the peace.
- I support the right to bear arms, but I don’t see why requiring that gun stores and shooting ranges be allowed stay open during a disaster declaration makes anyone safer.
- It is not at all clear how this law makes Alaskans safer during a disaster. This seems like a waste of legislative time when we have much more pressing issues to address in our state.

Timothy K Thomas MD

Tel: (907) 717-6189

From: [Patricia Owen](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Oppose SB 136
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 9:53:26 AM

Dear Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

I am a life long Alaskan and strongly oppose SB 136.

During a declared disaster in Alaska, the primary focus should be on protecting public safety, not limiting the state and local government's ability to respond and maintain safety and order.

It's time the legislature passed common sense gun safety laws that save lives instead of prioritizing gun sales during a disaster when full-scale emergency response should take precedence.

Thank you.

Patty Owen
Juneau

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Shonti Elder](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Vote No on Senate Bill 136
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 9:23:51 AM

SB 136 is a dangerous and unnecessary bill, and I urge you to vote no on it. During an emergency, the focus should be on actions that protect public safety instead of limiting state and local governments power to do that. The bill also sets up individuals to act as legal enforcers by claiming that they would be adversely affected. That also could override necessary safety actions by authorities.

Can you explain how requiring gun stores and shooting ranges to remain open during a disaster, makes anyone safer? This bill is a dangerous waste of legislative time, when there are many more important issues to be dealing with.

From: [Emily Kane](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 136
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 9:12:52 AM

Dear Representatives

Thank you for continuing to hear bills during these final hours. I strongly urge you to kill this bill right now. Allowing for easier access to firearms cannot possibly render Alaskans safer during a time of disaster or emergency. Disaster and emergency situations are by nature unpredictable. I personally do not want untrained gunmen shooting and looting during a time when civic management could be of utmost importance.

My closest friend lost her son just before his 15th birthday to a senseless gunshot wound. His death would have been prevented if the gun owner has securely stored their weapon. Please pass sensible safe storage and red flag laws to PROTECT our good people against this plague of gun violence which is a scourge on our society.

Sincerely
Dr. Emily Kane
Juneau

www.DrEmilyKane.com

www.naturopathic.org

lifewavex39.com/dremilykane

From: [Luann McVey](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [luann McVey](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 136, Limitations on Firearms Restrictions
Date: Sunday, May 15, 2022 8:39:25 PM

Co-Chairs Hannan and Schrage, Vice Chair Patkotak, and Representatives Drummond, Prax, McCarty, and McCabe,

I am opposed to SB 136 and strongly urge you to not to allow this unnecessary and potentially harmful bill to pass out of your committee. I cannot for the life of me understand the reasoning behind prohibiting the governor, a state agency, or a municipality from taking action(s) during a declared disaster emergency that would restrict the possession, use or sale of a firearm, a firearm accessory, ammunition or other weapon -- including not allowing the temporary closure of gun stores or gun ranges during a declared disaster.

During a disaster emergency, emotions tend to run hot and our leaders might find it necessary to restrict gun possession, use or sales, in order to limit the chaos that can erupt when angry people have easy access to firearms. I believe in the ability of our elected leaders to decide when such limits are necessary.

Please do not take away a tool that could be used for constructive purposes, to disarm those who might cause harm to others. Guns are not the answer to human strife, especially during a declared disaster emergency. I hope you will prevent this bill from passing out of your committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey, Retired Alaskan Teacher
1507 Second Street
Douglas, Alaska. 99824