

From: [Irene Bortnick](#)
To: [Senate State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#); [Rep. Alyse Galvin](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB 243
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 2:55:15 PM

I am writing to urge you to vote against SB 243, "**An Act removing devices designed, made, or adapted to muffle the report of a firearm from the definition of 'prohibited weapon.'**"

According to NRA-ILA, SB 243 "removes suppressors from the controlled weapons list **at the state level**. This legislation is critical to ensuring that future changes in Federal law do not prevent law-abiding Alaskans from possessing and utilizing suppressors to protect their hearing while hunting or exercising their Second Amendment rights."

Stating that the inability to possess or use a sound suppressor infringes on someone's Second Amendment rights is a convoluted argument. No one is saying that Alaskans cannot have firearms. Furthermore, suppressors work best on smaller caliber weapons and only to a certain degree on larger weapons such as those used for hunting. Hunters and people engaging in sports such as riflery, clay shooting or target shooting, can protect their hearing with ear plugs, muffs, a combination of the two or with electronic HPD options.

"Earplugs are one of the most common HPDs. They can be as basic as disposable foam plugs or more advanced custom-made ear molds. They can be designed with filters to let soft and moderate sounds pass through, while reducing loud noises....Electronic HPD options can make softer sounds louder, but shut off when there is a loud noise, like gunfire. They include earmuffs — instant fit and custom in-ear versions. These HPDs allow hunters to talk and hear animals without removing the devices." <https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/hunting-be-sure-to-protect-your-hearing>

Conversely, exempting suppressors from the controlled weapons list increases the possibility of someone using a weapon for nefarious reasons. We can both respect the rights of Americans to own firearms and at the same time do everything possible to protect lives.

Please vote against SB 243.

Sincerely,
Irene Bortnick