

March 3, 2026

Senate State Affairs Committee  
Senator Scott Kawasaki, Chair, Vice Chair, Jesse Bjorkman and Members,

Support for SB 203 “An Act relating to the definition of ‘prohibited weapon.’”

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill, SB203. While some may question the need for this legislation since the federal Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986 bans civilian ownership of newly produced machine guns manufactured after May, 1986 and Alaska law prohibits rapid-fire firearms capable of shooting more than one shot automatically without reloading, circumstances have changed. It is now quite easy and cheap to turn legal handguns into automatic weapons either through purchase or homemade on a 3D printer.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) reports a 500% increase in the recovery of Glock switches over the past five years! This statistic demands every effort be made to ensure specificity and clarity of state legislative language to close a loophole and leave no doubt whatsoever of the illegality of civilian use of Glock switches.

The fact is that the rapidly growing prevalence of Glock switches in the US demonstrates the seriousness and threat to public safety they pose. The time to act is NOW through additional clarifying legislation to meet the intent of the original state law banning rapid-fire weapons.

At least half of all states, both Republican and Democrat, have enacted similar legislation to protect their communities and children. Alaska can't afford to leave any loopholes in state law. The only reason for killing this legislation is a tired rationale for opposing any commonsense gun safety legislation. Lives are at stake and our children deserve to have every chance to live into adulthood with responsible adults setting policy to help that become a reality.

Please vote YES on SB203!

Thank you,  
Pamela Watts  
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