

Breanna Kakaruk

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Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: SB 136 / 34th Legislation/ 1st Session

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Subject: SB 136 / 34th Legislation/ 1st Session

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 136
Alaska State Legislature – 34th Legislature, First Session
Labor and Commerce Committee / Judiciary Committee**

**Submitted by:
Donna Anthony
Owner, Point Blank Firearms & Self-Defense Training
Alaska**

Date: 20 January 2026

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Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donna Anthony, and I am the owner of Point Blank Firearms & Self-Defense Training, a lawfully operating firearms and professional training business in the State of Alaska. I have been in continuous business for 12 years and have over 20 years of experience in law enforcement. I submit this written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 136 based on my direct, personal experience with financial discrimination against a lawful firearms-related business.

In 2015, my business conducted active shooter and scenario-based security training on the North Slope for BP, specifically for their security team.

This training did not involve live firearms. Due to North Slope restrictions, no real weapons were permitted or used. The instruction relied solely on simulator-based training tools designed for decision-making and scenario-based exercises.

At that time, I had maintained a relationship with the same credit card processing company for over two years with no prior issues. After the training was completed, the credit card company withheld more than \$10,000 in earned and contractually owed funds.

No meaningful explanation was provided, and I was not given an opportunity to resolve or appeal the action directly. The funds were simply frozen, placing my small Alaska business under immediate financial strain.

With no other recourse, I contacted U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan's office and worked directly with Elaine Sprakler to address the issue. During this process, we learned that my business had likely been flagged under what was known as Operation Choke Point, a federal initiative that pressured financial institutions to restrict or deny services to lawful but politically disfavored industries, including firearms-related businesses.

What followed was particularly concerning. After Senator Sullivan's office contacted the credit card company, the company did not contact me, the merchant. Instead, they contacted my long-time client, with whom I had worked for many years providing recurring security training for his security company. My client later notified me that his security company had contacted him directly, asking whether I had used handguns during the training.

My client, who is also a retired police officer, correctly informed them that no firearms were used, only simulator-based training tools, and that live weapons were not permitted on the North Slope.

Immediately after that confirmation, the withheld funds were released.

As a law enforcement professional with more than two decades of experience, I recognize the difference between legitimate investigations and improper financial pressure. This experience made clear that the credit card company's actions were not related to fraud, contractual issues, or illegal activity, but were instead based on the nature of my business and perceived firearm involvement. Had I not had the ability to seek assistance through a U.S. Senator's office, my business could have suffered serious and potentially irreparable harm.

Following this incident, I immediately changed credit card processors. However, many small Alaska businesses—especially those in lawful but politically sensitive industries—do not have the resources, legal knowledge, or political access necessary to fight back when financial institutions act in this manner.

Senate Bill 136 directly addresses this type of financial discrimination. The bill provides clear protections against:

- Discriminatory use of firearm-related transaction codes**
- Denial or restriction of financial services based solely on lawful firearms commerce**
- Improper disclosure or tracking of firearm-related financial transactions**

- **Actions by financial institutions or payment networks intended to impede lawful commerce**

SB 136 does not prevent legitimate fraud prevention or lawful criminal investigations. Instead, it ensures that lawful businesses are not financially targeted for ideological or political reasons and that there is accountability and due process when violations occur.

As a business owner with 12 years of lawful operation, a law enforcement professional with over 20 years of service, and an Alaskan, I strongly urge the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 136. No lawful business should have its financial lifeline cut off without transparency, due process, or cause—especially when those actions threaten constitutional rights and economic survival.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Donna Anthony
Owner, Point Blank Firearms & Self-Defense Training
Alaska**

Best regards,

Pointblank Firearms and Self Defense Training

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