

HB 61

AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESTRICTION OF FIREARMS
AND OTHER WEAPONS

HB 61 IS CRITICAL TO THE ALASKAN WAY OF LIFE

- Subsistence
- Protection
- Constitution

FIREARM RESTRICTIONS IMPACT ON SUBSISTENCE

- “Subsistence” is the word used to describe a traditional way of life among many Alaska natives. In the physical sense, it refers to the practice of relying on the surrounding environment as a source of food and materials for daily living.
- 21% of Alaska’s population is considered rural.
- Alaska rural residence harvest about 18,000 tons of wild foods per year.
- In rural Alaska 30% of a community provides 70% of the community’s food.
- The largest annual per capita harvest of wild food resources comes from rural Arctic communities. In 2017, they harvested roughly 402 pounds per person compared to the average of 15 pounds per person harvested by Anchorage residents.
- Nowhere else in the U.S. is there such a heavy reliance on wild foods.

FIREARM RESTRICTIONS IMPACT ON PROTECTION

- This year a woman and her 1 year old son were mauled to death by polar bear in Wales, the polar bear was killed by a man with a gun, potentially saving lives.
- In 2017, a contract employee for Pogo Mine, was killed by a black bear, while collecting soil samples. The bear was killed by a mine employee with a gun.
- Criminals do not follow laws which make victims more vulnerable.

FIREARM RESTRICTIONS AND CONSTITUTION

- In January 2022 a federal appeals court ruled that two California counties that shut down gun stores as nonessential businesses in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, violated the Constitution's Second Amendment.
- The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees “the right of the people to keep and bear arms.” In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that this is an individual right, not requiring participation in a militia.
- In 2010, the high court ruled in *McDonald v. Chicago* that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right that also applies to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment, which bars any state from denying liberty to any person without due process of law.

NATIONWIDE ACTION ON FIREARM RESTRICTIONS

- Four State adopted similar legislation in 2021.
 - South Dakota (SB 129)
 - Georgia (SB 214)
 - West Virginia (SB 458)
 - North Dakota (SB 2344)
- Department of Homeland Security published a memo included Firearm dealers as mission essential.

CONCLUSION

- Firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition are a part of the Alaskan culture and way of life.
- Firearms facilitate feeding families and food security.
- Firearms allow Alaskan's and visitors to safely explore our beautiful state.
- The Second Amendment grants citizens the right to bear arms.
- Bi Partisan support (SB 136 / HB 179, 2022)