



The Honorable Mike Lee

THE SILENCERS HELPING US SAVE HEARING ACT

Senator Lee will introduce the Silencers Helping Us Save Hearing Act to eliminate the unnecessary regulation of suppressors.

BACKGROUND

Silencers are a non-lethal firearm accessory used by hunters, sportsmen, and marksmen throughout the world. Silencers make shooting safer by reducing noise, recoil, and muzzle blast. They do not completely silence firearms.

Currently, law-abiding citizens looking to purchase a silencer must petition the ATF through a tedious process, which includes the following:

- Complete two copies of ATF Form 4 (one by the individual, the other by the recognized dealer);
- Fill out an ATF Form 5330.20 Certification of Compliance;
- Obtain a certification from a local chief law enforcement office and obtain two copies of fingerprints; and
- Mail both copies of Form 4, Form 5330.20, two fingerprint cards, two passport photos, and a \$200 check made payable to the ATF.

The approval process can take 9-12 months. Once approved, the ATF will return the completed Form 4 with a tax stamp to the recognized dealer, allowing for the final purchase and transfer to take place. These requirements make purchase of a non-lethal firearm accessory onerous and prohibitively costly for most consumers. The result is surreptitious gun control.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

This bill eliminates federal regulation of silencers as firearms under the National Firearms Act (NFA) and the Gun Control Act (GCA), removing overly burdensome taxes, fees, and registration requirements. The bill removes current restrictions on the right to own, transport, transfer and use a silencer, including allowing current or retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms with silencers. It preempts any state regulation of the manufacture, transfer, transport or possession of silencers and strikes provisions requiring a mandatory minimum sentence for possession of a silencer in certain instances. The bill also statutorily exempts silencers from regulation by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Finally, for purposes of Section 5811 of the Internal Revenue Code, the bill contains a provision deeming the effective date to be two years prior to the date of enactment meaning that anyone who purchased a silencer and paid the \$200 transfer tax within 2 years of the date of enactment will be eligible for a refund. If passed, the SHUSH Act will work in conjunction with the Hearing Protection Act to achieve similar deregulation while additionally removing silencers from the Gun Control Act of 1968.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Wendy Baig at 4-3905 to learn more or to cosponsor.