

Committee Members:

My name is Tom Polachek, I am a US Army Veteran and served from November 1987 to November 1989. I was a Fire Support Specialist (the Governor knows what that is). I trained with the M16A1, the M60, and also the M2 .50 caliber firearms. The latter 2 were mounted on my vehicle, a classified Fire Support Vehicle, known as a FISTV. I was trained in how to zero the M16A1, fire it on semi-automatic and fully automatic modes. The latter was very rare but for every pull of the trigger more than one round was fired until I stopped depressing the trigger, that's what an automatic does. It also wastes ammunition, which is why every automatic rifle after this version starting with the M16A2 had a 3 round burst instead of full auto. My main mission then was to defend the US Constitution from enemies foreign and domestic. At the time I didn't know what a domestic enemy was or why any US Citizen would willfully oppose the US Constitution, but now I know what they are. Many of them are elected.

Recently I got back into firearms, largely due to 3 reasons. First the rise of violence due to the drug front down the street (Maryland Supermarket) that the City of St Paul and Ramsey County knows about but lets it exist for some odd reason. The second was I was afraid the government would go door-to-door forcing people against their will to take the experimental emergency use authorized injection. The last reason was because I'm an Army guy and I really missed the discipline involved in target shooting. The problem was I had a fear of handguns. I'm not sure where this came from but it was there. The other problem was the high costs in owning one and training.

I admin and write for a political website, saintpaulrepublicans.us and I was going to do a story on Conceal Carry after the Riots in which the Twin City Mayors and the Governor let thugs roam the streets and let businesses burn. The guy I contacted, Daniel Ward II, suggested I take the class. It had been 31 years since I had shot anything. At the range I could almost hear my Drill Sgts coaching me what to do. That fear I mentioned about handguns? That melted away when I was in Mr Ward's class. The gun can't go off by itself, there are multiple safeties and the greatest safety is my brain. If I don't want it to fire I won't do the things to make it fire. Also there were a lot of scenarios of what one might do if put into a situation. This is what those training classes that are required in order to get a conceal carry certificate require; you should take one.

This is the article I wrote.

<https://www.saintpaulrepublicans.us/2021/03/19/uscca-conceal-carry-training-in-st-paul/>

The main reason I wanted to submit testimony was something many overlook, to include the gun industry. The high cost of gun ownership. I'm financially poor. I live on a program called HUD-VASH, it is basically section 8 for Vets. I'm on SNAP, energy assistance, and I'm financially poor. I don't intend to stay in this condition but currently that's my situation. When politicians talk about defunding the police that's a huge problem as neighborhoods with high poverty rates like mine tend to have high crime too. So people like myself have to defend themselves as the cops are sometimes tens of minutes away, or like in St Paul's Crime Statistics Grid 54, hours away. This firearm insurance liability mandate is unnecessary. Most gun owners like myself have

insurance but when you mandate something it becomes costlier and it might price me out of owning a firearm.

The Red Flag law is wrong. I have been diagnosed with mild depression by the VA. It had been more severe at one point and when I got better in August of 2020, thanks in part to Rev Tim Christopher, I felt well enough to get a firearm. I have more personal rules about training than the basic 4 gun safety rules. I never load ball ammo unless I'm at the range. Actually I was worried I'd be denied a firearm but my psychologist and my social worker said it was okay. They are federal employees by the way. Red Flag laws circumvent due process and you should check with the recent US Supreme Court opinions, they say it is unconstitutional.

Lastly, the Universal background check has already happened at least 2 times for me. First when I submitted my application for a Conceal Carry permit at the Ramsey County Sheriff's office in March 2021. They ran me through NICS that the FBI performs. The second time was when I went to Sportsmansguide Outlet in South St Paul to pick up my M&P 380 EZ. The FFL had to run a background check then too.

It is unconstitutional to register firearms. So I can foresee all your laws that you are proposing will fail. They will also fail to stop any violent crimes, as the very definition of a criminal is a person who doesn't follow the law.

I think these gun laws are a bit like the SALT treaties (Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty). The American People are a fighting force and they have a right to do so if the government starts to oppress them. These gun laws are nitpicking to make sure gun owners have less capable arms than the standing Armies the Government has on their leash. I would like to get my old M16A1 back. I might not be able to afford to fire it on full auto as ammo is spendy.

States don't have the right to pass laws that violate the First 9 Amendments to the US Constitution. The 10th amendment was for other things not covered in the US Constitution.

If you violate any parts of the US Constitution, you are a domestic enemy and should be arrested and put away. I know I took that oath.with no end date.