

Good Morning,

In regards to HB 1340 and the debacle here in Fargo, I would like to add my support to this bill.

I and others have wished to have an FFL as a home based (or side business) here in Fargo for quite a while. Yet have been prevented from doing so due to Fargo's ordinance, put in place for reasons unknown, even by a former city commissioner who sat on the commission at the time 20+ years ago.

My primary reason for having one, simple, public safety, by having the ability to legally transfer firearms from one party to another when the parties want the transfer to be done privately. As an example, because of the value or rarity of the firearm. Or, they are turned down at some stores that sell firearms and will not do a private transfer, or charge an extremely high price (\$50+).

The other reason, I do a handful of local gun shows annually. I travel occasionally and stop at gun shows and shops along the way, and, due to federal law, or occasionally state laws, without an FFL, I may not be able to purchase a "good deal", without having to have it shipped home, and having to find an FFL to do a transfer as well.

And without an FFL, even if I buy the firearm. When I go to re-sell it, without an FFL, the firearm is now sold as a "private sale" having no ability myself to run a proper legal NICS transfer. As sometimes a gun show does not have an FFL, or the cost of having an FFL at the show who is willing do a transfer, can be a deal breaker.

And this can lead to a future issue, one I found out the hard way. At a local gun show, I sold a firearm to another individual, a handgun, no red flags, the person I sold it to, gave no indication anything was "fishy". Months later that same handgun was used to commit a crime in Minnesota.

That handgun, via NICS, was traced back to me as the last known owner. After an investigation, the police hit a dead end, as my sale, while legal as a private sale, gave them no further information, as another NICS was not done to transfer it up the line. And I discovered that this is a tactic that criminals exploit, going to gun shows, and looking for "private sellers", in order to traffic firearms to criminals.

And that show was a good example, as there was not an FFL on site that day. As the one who was supposed to be there, was unable to attend due to a personal emergency. Had that handgun undergone a NICS transfer, it never would have been sold. OR if the buyer had been legal, and yet re-selling via trafficking, they would have been possibly caught by the police.

I find Fargo's ordinance to be asinine, as they make legal transfers more difficult, instead of less difficult, which to me makes 0 sense, as those transfers, via NICS, do a good job of preventing people with felonies or other criminal records from obtaining a firearm. That is the primary job of the federal system in operation today, the FFL is just a tool.

And oddly enough, Fargo is the only place in North Dakota, where a home based FFL is not allowed, you would think the largest city in the State, would take the lead in promoting firearm safety.

Notwithstanding, Fargo's law, goes against previous state law, regarding what home based businesses are legal, as well as the 2nd. Amendment of our State, and Federal Constitutions...

Furthermore, with the current make-up of our commission, I fear that they will soon attempt further over-reach of State law(s) if left unchecked and unrestrained. Challenging our State law-makers on other issues, as we have seen in other cities recently.

Thank You for your time.

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