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Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety
Tuesday, May 14th, 2024
BILL NO. 35-0250

Honorable Senator Kenneth Gittens and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing Star Time Firearms, your local FFL Dealer to offer Testimony in support of Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety's Bill No. 35-0250, amending Title 23 of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 5 adding section to ban assault rifles in the US Virgin Islands. I am also in support of licensed firearms holders requiring permission from the US Virgin Islands Police commissioner before purchasing firearm components being mailed or shipped to the US Virgin Islands.

My name is Levi MacSheen, the owner of Star Time Firearms, a Federal Firearms Licensed Dealer with Store front locations in St. Thomas, VI, Atlanta, GA and Miami, FL. I have been involved in the firearms industry for over 10 years, accumulating extensive expertise within this sector. Furthermore, having spent my formative years in the US Virgin Islands, I have directly encountered both the advantages and disadvantages of firearms. This firsthand experience drives my primary objective: to impart knowledge on firearms safety to fellow members of my community.

I am testifying in favor of adding section banning assault rifles in the US Virgin Islands, as it will have a positive impact on public safety and aid in preventing tragic incidents. Given the US Virgin Islands crime rating of over 50 per capita, this legislation can reduce the overall rate of gun violence that has involved assault rifles. This measure will be a step towards regulation of firearms in our territories, will aid law enforcement efforts to prevent crime and keep our communities safe.

In addition, I am in support of obtaining Police Commissioner's approval before allowing the purchase of firearm components. Having the commissioner involved in the approval process will provide an additional layer of oversight and accountability potentially helping identify and prevent suspicious or unlawful firearms transactions. This measure can help in crime prevention and avert illegal activities. Components should be shipped to an FFL Dealer after obtaining Commissioner's approval.

Passing Legislation to ban assault rifles and implementing a process requiring Police Commissioner's approval for firearm components are crucial steps toward enhancing public safety and preventing tragedies associated with gun violence. Star Time Firearms favorably supports the committee's efforts to safeguarding the wellbeing of our residents and promoting a safer, more secure culture for us all. Thank you for your time.

Levi MacSheen
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