



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

2018 Legislative Recap	I & 2
The "some people" trap	3
15,000 members	3
Trump to outlaw your AR?	4
Annual Director Election	4



2018 Legislative Review



The 2018 legislative session was one of the toughest we've encountered. In addition to having a Republican Governor with a history of being un-supportive of pro-rights firearms legislation, Republican legislators are increasingly reluctant to protect and support your rights. In the Arizona Senate, Republicans hold a slim 17-13 majority. All it takes is 2 Republican Senators to vote against a bill to create a tie, and a tie vote means the bill does not pass. Unfortunately, there are 3 Republican Senators, [Kate Brophy McGee](#), [Frank Pratt](#) and [Bob Worsley](#), that consistently vote against bills that restore and protect your right to keep and bear arms. As a result, this session most pro-rights firearms bills could not survive a Senate floor vote.

When the session started there were a dozen pro-rights bills that AzCDL supported. By the end of the session, only the following two AzCDL supported bills survived the Legislative process and were signed by the Governor.

HB 2211 (Rep. [Bob Thorpe](#), R-LD6) specifically exempts firearms from a personal bankruptcy process.

HB 2212 (Rep. [Bob Thorpe](#), R-LD6) extends the privilege of carrying firearms in Arizona, with certain limited exceptions, to any sworn and certified law enforcement officer employed by any jurisdiction (federal, tribal, state, local, etc.) in the U.S.



Bad Bills Stopped

While it was difficult to get good bills through the legislature this session, we were successful in stopping the progress of over a dozen bills aimed at weakening your rights.

HB 2023 (Rep. [Randy Friesse](#), D-LD9) and **SB 1348** (Sen. [Olivia Cajera Bedford](#), D-LD3) would have banned any component that would "accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle."

HB 2024, **HCR 2001** (Rep. [Randy Friesse](#), D-LD9) and **SCR 1015** (Sen. [Steve Farley](#), D-LD9) are identical bills that would have criminalized the transfer of personal property (your firearms) unless the firearm was surrendered to a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) and background checks were conducted. This included temporary transfers, such as loaning a gun to a friend. Violation of the proposed law would be a Class 5 felony. The real objective was not to stop criminals (they are called criminals because they don't obey the law) but to register you and your firearms. HCR 2001 and SCR 1015 were proposed ballot measures for the upcoming election cycle. Similar legislation and ballot measures have been filed by Democrats for the last six years.

HB 2140 (Rep. [Randy Friesse](#), D-LD9) and **SB 1347** (Sen. [Katie Hobbs](#), D-LD24) would have required the confiscation of your firearms if a "mental health injunction" was filed against you at the request of a family member or peace officer. One of the indicators for being mentally ill is purchasing a firearm in the last six months. This is the third year that this legislation has been proposed.

HB 2299 Rep. [Randy Friesse](#), D-LD9) and **SB 1224** (Sen. [David Bradley](#), D-LD10) would have

(Continued on page 2)



2018 Legislative Session Review



(Continued from page 1)

required those on *probation* for any domestic violence violation to surrender their firearms. This legislation has been proposed for the last three years.

HB 2354 (Rep. [Kristen Engel](#), D-LD10) and **SB 1374** (Sen. [Kate Brophy McGee](#), R-LD18) were aimed at weakening state firearm preemption laws. In particular they attacked the statute that was instrumental in forcing Tucson to stop destroying seized and surrendered firearms.

SB 1078 (Sen. [Nancy Barto](#), R-LD15) and **SB 1244** (Sen. [Martin Quezada](#), D-LD29) proposed to expand membership in the state's criminal justice commission to include members from professions and groups traditionally opposed to your right to keep and bear arms.

SB 1231 (Sen. [Juan Mendez](#), D-LD26) would have nullified the "no duty to retreat" in the statutes justifying the use of deadly force for self-defense. This type of legislation has been proposed for the last four years.

SB 1428 (Sen. [Juan Mendez](#), D-LD26) was a home invader empowerment bill. It would have made it a crime to not store your firearm "without using a lock and key or combination on the trigger of the firearm or placing the firearm in a securely locked box or other container." Since 2013, this is the fifth time this type of legislation has been proposed.

As you can see, those who want to disarm you will never stop. Neither will we.

AzCDL has an [excellent track record](#) of preventing bad bills, like those listed above, from becoming law. Since we started counting them in 2008, we have stopped over 90 anti-rights bills that would make Arizona more like California. Thanks to the [support](#) of our members, we can add these bills to the dustbin of tyranny.

In the final weeks of the session **SB 1519** was introduced in the Senate. This bill was based on the Governor's [Safer Arizona Schools](#) proposal in reaction to the Parkland school murders.



Firearm Confiscation Proposal Stopped

Governor Ducey's proposal called for "emergency" firearms confiscations, using low evidentiary standards with virtually no recourse or appeals, based on claims from disgruntled family members or school officials that you were dangerous. The expectation was that this legislation was going to rapidly proceed through the legislative process with full support of the legislative leadership and the Republican majority.

Enter AzCDL

Thanks to the almost 37,000 emails generated by our members and supporters opposing SB 1519 the tone at the Capitol changed. The Governor's office reached out to AzCDL to discuss modifications to the proposed legislation.

Largely based on our input an 82 page *strike-everything* amendment, that completely replaced the original bill and corrected most of the issues we raised, was introduced and adopted by the Senate. However, it did not garner enough support in the House and failed to pass before the end of the session.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Governor's office and various legislators in overhauling SB 1519 but when it comes to the safety of our children, the concept of firearms confiscation orders misses the mark.

While no one wants dangerous people running around with guns, they should not be running around at all. If we deny them access to a firearm, they can still purchase gasoline, matches, knives, impact weapons, cars or trucks, etc.,

which they can use to murder people. If a person is so dangerous that they should not be allowed to have a gun, then they certainly should not be allowed out amongst the public. Realistic solutions should focus on keeping dangerous people away from the people they might harm.

Then there is the problem of so-called "gun free zones", schools being the largest and most obvious. How many times does a lunatic with a gun have to show up in one of these before we realize that the only people free of guns are the people getting killed trying to protect our children. Every time one of these armed lunatics has arrived and started killing, people **with guns** are called to handle the problem. Do we not understand that having people with guns already there is a better option?

There was very little in SB 1519 to address these issues. While there were some positive additions, they didn't go nearly far enough. Other states have moved towards arming faculty and staff.

In sum, while we believe the final Senate version of SB 1519 was no longer the egregious threat to our liberties that it started as, it still needed work before we could consider it to be a positive contribution to the public policy of our great state.

The fight isn't over

The media is reporting that the Governor wants similar legislation introduced next session and may call a special session this year to get his proposal enacted.

The “Some People” Trap

Those who want to disarm you are constantly repackaging their message. It used to be about “gun control.” The “Gun Control Act of 1968” is the granddaddy of modern citizen disarmament laws.

Noticing that “control” doesn’t sell like it used to, those who want to disarm you are now calling themselves “gun safety” organizations, as in Bloomberg’s Everytown for Gun Safety.

They have repackaged their message. Now, they call for “commonsense gun laws” and “universal background checks,” because they say *some people* should not have access to firearms. What they don’t tell you is that *some people* means you!

In the 19th century it was believed that racial minorities were *some people* that needed to be disarmed. Virtually every gun law in America is based on that concept.

Now, those same laws are being used to justify restrictions for *all* gun ownership. Unfortunately many gun owners,



and the organizations that claim to represent us, took the bait.

Concealed weapons (CCW) permit laws are an acceptance that *some people* should not be allowed to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right to bear arms and that only government officials can properly determine who is *privileged* to carry. How many gun owners do you know believe that the CCW permit is a good idea because *some peo-*

ple should not be allowed to carry a firearm? **Is that what you believe?**

We are now seeing the next step in the *some people* argument cloaked as a mental health issue. The argument is that we need to disarm everyone with mental health challenges because some of them might be a danger to themselves and others. Included in their list of dangerous people are those experiencing difficulties handling their financial affairs. Soon it will be people who have taken anti-depressants or had trouble concentrating in school.

To those who want to disarm you, *anyone* who wants to possess a firearm is mentally ill. Their ultimate goal is to make it impossible for you to acquire a firearm and to confiscate the ones you already own.

Once you accept that government screening is needed to prevent *some people* from possessing a firearm, you have surrendered your right to possess your firearms.

How long before YOU become “some people” and they come for your guns?



15,000 Members! Woo Hoo!



Congratulations to all our dedicated and hard working volunteers!

As this was being written, AzCDL is on the cusp of recruiting our 15,000th member. It will probably occur at one of the gun shows in early June.

We’ve come a long way in 13 years. AzCDL was formed in 2005 when seven activists decided to do something about the loss of the right to keep and bear arms in Arizona. Our first meeting was in March. By June AzCDL was officially formed. Four of the original founders became AzCDL’s first directors. That same year we experienced our first success at the legislature.

Five years later, in 2010, among many other accomplishments, we were successful in achieving *Constitutional Carry* in Arizona. The right to carry openly or discreetly without begging for govern-



ment permission was restored.

Because of our success, Arizona has become the “brass ring” for gun grabbers. Not only do we have Constitutional Carry, but Guns and Ammo magazine has five times in a row declared Arizona as the number one state for gun owners. We are now the main tar-

get of Bloomberg’s campaign to achieve universal gun owner registration.

We can win the coming fight, but only with your involvement and activism.

AzCDL is fiercely independent. We are not affiliated with, nor do we receive any money from, any national organizations. No sugar daddies. No New York billionaires. Memberships and Individual donations are our only source of income.

If you are not a member, we urge you to join AzCDL. The more members we have committed to making a difference, the greater AzCDL’s impact at the legislature. By working together and making our voices heard, not only can we show the bad guys that they don’t stand a chance in Arizona, we can push through legislation that further restores and protects our rights.

Will President Trump Outlaw Your AR?

President Trump has directed his Justice Department to draft a rule that add-on devices like "bump stocks" are machinegun components under federal law. While many of you may think it's no big deal because you don't own a bump stock, such a rule could make your AR pattern rifle illegal, and you a felon for possessing it.

The National Firearms Act (NFA), 26 U.S.C. Chapter 53, defines the term "firearm" to include a machinegun. Section 5845(b) of the NFA defines a "machinegun" as *"any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person."*

The proposed regulations would define a firearm as a machinegun even if the trigger resets for every round that is fired, so long as the finger only pulls the trigger once, which occurs when ["bump firing"](#) any semi-automatic firearm, not just AR's.



If the Trump Justice Department issues a rule that adding a bump stock, or similar modification, to your AR converts it to a machine gun and federal law says that a machine gun is any firearm that *"can be readily restored to shoot"* as a machine gun, then by definition all AR pattern rifles could be instantly classified as machine guns because they can *"be readily restored"* by adding a bump stock.

It gets worse. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 922(o), machineguns manufactured on or after May 19, 1986, may not be possessed by civilians. If the potential of adding a bump stock automatically makes your AR a machinegun and it's illegal for you to possess any machinegun manufactured after May 19, 1986, you are now a felon. There is no "grandfather" clause in existing federal

law. If you own an AR manufactured before 1986, you could still be considered to be in possession of an unregistered machinegun.

It appears that with one bureaucratic rule, President Trump will accomplish what those who want to disarm you have been pushing for decades, the outlawing of most popular rifle in America, your AR, and possibly any semi-auto firearm capable of being bump fired.

The Trump Justice Department's ["Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,"](#) that would reclassify bump stocks as machine guns under the National Firearms Act, is open for public comments until June 27, 2018. *The time to act is now!*

The link below will take you to the proposed rule:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=ATF-2018-0002-0001>

Then, click on the blue "Comment Now" tab in the upper right corner to go the page for expressing your opposition:



AzCDL's 2018 Director Election



To promote continuity in leadership, the terms of office for AzCDL's directors are staggered. This year, the director positions held by Dave Kopp, AzCDL's President, and Ed Martinez are due to expire.

While both are seeking reelection, the nomination process is open to all members. All nominations will appear on the ballot. If there is only one nominee for a vacancy there will not be a balloting process.

If you are a Life member interested in running for either of these positions on the AzCDL Board of Directors, you may nominate yourself or be nominated by any other member.

If you are going to nominate someone else, you must provide a personal verification from the nominee, including the nominee's signature and membership number, indicating they want to be on the ballot. Candidate biographies and/or statements are welcomed.

Mail all nomination requests to:

AzCDL Membership
P.O. Box 86256
Tucson, AZ 85754

You may also email nominations to treasurer@AzCDL.org. A readable, scanned image of the nominee's personal verification document attached to an email may be considered acceptable if,

in the sole judgment of AzCDL's Board of Directors, it can be verified as authentic.

All nominations must be received by AzCDL by midnight, Saturday, June 30, 2018. Any nomination received after June 30, 2018 will not be placed on the ballot.

If you include a candidate biography and/or a statement of why they/you should be elected, it must be limited to a single 8.5" x 11" page using standard margins and line spacing, and a font size equivalent to Arial 10. Any legitimate candidate statement timely received will be made available to members during the balloting process.