

* LEGISLATION ALERT *

PA House Bill 2258

Tell your PA representative to vote NO on HB 2258

From CeaseFirePA:

By now, you may know that HB 2258, the special standing/punitive preemption bill (or Act 192 reboot), passed out of the House Judiciary Committee. The House could vote on this bill as early as next week, and the Senate also has a version pending (SB 1330). Despite all we know about how bad Act 192 was -- leading to lawsuits against Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Lancaster and Lower Merion Township, and threats against hundreds of other towns across PA - they're trying to bring it back.

Why? Who does this law benefit? Not the towns and cities that have faced lawsuits. Not the taxpayers who had to pay to defend those lawsuits. Not the township residents who saw good safety measures repealed out of fear of lawsuits. Only one small group benefits -- lawyers who represent the gun groups who sue our cities. This law, simply put, is a gift for the gun lobby and their lawyers.

Let your friends and neighbors know that we don't want or need this reboot of Act 192. Please write a letter to the editor of your paper today. No more gifts for the greedy gun lobby and their lawyers.

For more information, go to www.CeaseFirePA.org.

From Karen Langley of The Pittsburg Post-Gazette:

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania House once again is considering a bill that would allow gun enthusiasts and organizations such as the National Rifle Association to sue municipalities over local firearm restrictions.

The House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday voted 21-6 to send the full House a bill that would permit state residents who may legally possess a firearm, and also membership organizations, to seek relief in the courts and to be awarded legal expenses if they win.

A similar proposal became law in 2014, but Commonwealth Court overturned it because of objections to the process used to pass the proposal. The gun provision had been added to a bill that addressed the theft of metals.

When the state Supreme Court in June declined to reinstate the law, the mayors of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, which have faced lawsuits challenging gun restrictions, praised the ruling.

The new bill states that the resident or membership organization must inform the defendant 30 days before filing a legal challenge in order to be eligible for being awarded expenses.

In a memo to colleagues, a bill sponsor, Rep. Mark Keller (R., Perry), said it was unreasonable to require residents to know various firearm ordinances as they travel through different jurisdictions.

Gov. Wolf opposes the legislation in its current form, a spokesman said. The bill would only reach the governor if it passes the House and Senate before the two-year legislative session ends Nov. 30.

House Bill 1948

Tell Your Senator to Vote NO on HB1948

From the Women's Law Project

Pennsylvania senators are ignoring doctors who warn double abortion ban #HB1948 is medically dangerous and disregarding our expert legal analysis that it is unconstitutional.

At this point, there's no other conclusion to draw except that anti-choice members of the Pennsylvania Legislature are obsessed with punishing women for abortion, and jailing doctors who would insist on providing patients the best possible care.

If passed into law, House Bill 1948 would criminalize almost all abortion by any method after 19 weeks' gestation, with no exceptions for rape, incest or fetal anomaly. In addition to making abortion after 19 weeks a felony, HB 1948 includes an additional provision that attempts to criminalize a procedure known as a D&E at any stage of pregnancy. The D&E abortion procedure is the same procedure that is used to complete a miscarriage, which means some doctors caring for pregnant women experiencing sudden or severe fetal complications would be forced to abandon patients.

For more information and background on HB1948, go to www.womenslawproject.org.

Senate Bill 1182

Tell Your Senator to Vote YES on SB1182

From Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Everytown for Gun Safety

Women and families in Pennsylvania can't afford for lawmakers to drag their feet on this issue - in a domestic violence situation, the presence of a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. People convicted of domestic abuse shouldn't have access to guns.

It's simple: People convicted of domestic abuse shouldn't have access to guns. Yet a bill introduced earlier this year to prevent abusers from possessing guns has still not moved forward in the Senate, leaving women and families at risk to gun violence.

This bill will give Pennsylvania law enforcement the tools they need to keep guns away from domestic abusers and make sure that abusers under a restraining order turn in the guns they already own.

Send a message to your senator asking them to support this bill that will help save lives:

Dear Senator _____,

I'm writing to urge you to stand up for victims of domestic abuse and pass SB 1182 out of the Senate Judiciary committee this month.

This bill, introduced by Sen. Pat Vance, will help keep guns away from violent abusers and will improve our Commonwealth's public safety laws.

The facts are clear: In a domestic violence situation, the presence of a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. And if that wasn't reason enough to act, last year alone there were 113 victims of domestic violence killed in Pennsylvania -- with 61 of them being fatally shot.

Convicted domestic abusers are already legally prohibited from buying guns; but SB 1182 would require those convicted of domestic abuse or placed under a final protection from abuse order to turn in the guns they already own.

As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, you have the power to advance this life-saving legislation and send a message to the full Senate that they should do the same.

Please do the right thing and support this bill to protect Pennsylvania's domestic abuse victims.

This is what the resolution we passed at the 2015 BPW/PA State Convention was about. I am sending a copy of the resolution to include with your letter.