



January 31, 2017

The Honorable Laurie Jinkins  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
John L. O'Brien Bldg., 204A  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**RE: HB 1387 (Jinkins) - Non-violent, victimless felonies; firearms registration**  
**POSITION: OPPOSE**  
**LOCATION: House Judiciary**

Dear Representative Jinkins,

On behalf of the members and supporters of Firearms Policy Coalition, I **respectfully submit our opposition to House Bill 1387 (Jinkins)**, a measure which burdens the right to acquire, possess, and use arms in common use for lawful purposes.

**1. HB 1387 is a Bureaucratic Nightmare.**

HB 1387 envisions the registration of potentially hundreds of thousands of existing magazines and the licensure of their owners. It nonchalantly creates a new scheme to track, tax, register and license a vast pool of un-serialized, unmarked ammunition feeding devices. Individual gun owners may own dozens or even hundreds of these lawful and common firearms parts.

In addition to this overly burdensome bureaucratic exercise, HB 1387 also constructs a complex list of cosmetic and utilitarian features associated with protected arms, creating a politically-motivated new category of arms.

Further, it adds a duplicative background check and the registration of firearms, configured in such a way as to meet the politically-constructed definition of "assault weapon", dooming the state of Washington to a potentially decades long technical, bureaucratic and political battle, as we have seen in other states.

Each police department and sheriff's office will have to re-assign valuable staff and resources to carefully document and double background check some of the most intentionally law-abiding people in the state – gun owners who would willingly comply with HB 1387.

Rather than investigating crime, police and sheriffs will turn into ministerial clerks, carefully registering hundreds of thousands of magazines and firearms.

This Byzantine process will be repeated annually, bogging down law enforcement and gun owners in a bureaucratic quicksand. This arcane use of our police forces is outweighed in its short-sightedness only by its cunning political calculus – making the burden so confusing, expensive and frustrating, that people choose either the black market – or no market at all in lieu of compliance with such a scheme.

**2. HB 1387 Creates Felons from Law-Abiding People Through New Victim-less Crimes.**

If a gun owners run afoul of HB 1387, their their lives will be turned upside down--separating them from

their families, their careers and their community – upending their future with a felony record and burdening the state with the imprisonment of otherwise upstanding residents, whose only crime was the mere possession of a spare “pistol grip” (deemed a “conversion kit” in HB 1387) or an ammunition feeding device, or safely transporting and using the item(s) in a manner not expressly conceived by this measure.

Currently lawful and protected uses of these arms not allowed by this measure include; security, instruction, nor the fundamental human rights to self-defense and defense of others.

The recent controversial efforts to ease Washington State's prison overcrowding, which have included using private prisons are only exacerbated by the creation of a host of new victimless, non-violent crimes, punishable by up to five years in prison.

According to HB 1387, the new nonviolent and victimless crimes created will result in severe punishment as expressed in 9A.20 RCW, which reads (in part):

“For a class C felony, by confinement in a state correctional institution for five years, or by a fine in an amount fixed by the court of ten thousand dollars, or by both such confinement and fine.”

### **3. HB 1387 Lacks Funding for Outreach**

HB 1387 contains no provision for outreach to the existing or future gun owning community. It has no funding to educate untold hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians that the items and firearms they have lawfully possessed for years are now contraband.

Likewise, the measure contains no provision for funding training of the law enforcement officers who will be enforcing this new labyrinth of laws regulating perfectly acceptable activities and firearms.

The potential for confusion and otherwise innocent people being arrested is obvious. The true social and fiscal costs of this measure and those like it are impossible to calculate.

### **CONCLUSION**

HB 1387 saddles good, law-abiding, working-class gun owners with yearly burdensome taxes, duplicative background checks, irrational registration schemes, and a labyrinth of new criminal laws.

Moreover, HB 1387 infringes on the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms protected under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Washington State Constitution.

For all of the reasons stated above, we must oppose HB 1387 and urge your “NO” vote. Please feel free to contact me at (855) 372-7522 if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

/s/

Philip Watson  
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Judiciary Committee Members, Rep. Chopp, Rep. Kristiansen.