

# Iowa Gun Owners

3775 EP True Parkway, #269, West Des Moines, IA 50265 | [www.iowaGunOwners.org](http://www.iowaGunOwners.org)

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March 18, 2026

Chairman Evans, Senator Quirnbach, and Senator Taylor,

On behalf of the tens of thousands of members of Iowa Gun Owners across the state, I urge you to pass HF-2718 without amendment, so it can be considered by the full Judiciary Committee.

HF-2718 protects law-abiding Iowans from one of the most dangerous assaults on the right to keep and bear arms in modern times -- the practice of 'Red Flag Gun Seizures' that confiscate firearms from citizens who have not even been charged, let alone convicted, of a crime.

Here's how the 'Red Flag' process works in states that have adopted them. Someone files a complaint about a gun owner, saying he could be dangerous. The court conducts a 'Red Flag' hearing ex parte, meaning the gun owner has no idea of what is going on. When the court agrees, the gun seizure order is issued. The first time the gun owner is even aware of what is going on is when the police are at his door to confiscate his firearms or order their surrender.

At a minimum, 'Red Flag' orders violate the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the United States Constitution.

HF-2718 would ensure this could never happen here in Iowa. It does that in two primary ways:

First, the bill prohibits the enforcement of firearm seizure orders unless and until an individual has been convicted of a violent felony crime, is out on bail after being arrested for a violent felony crime or is otherwise disqualified from owning firearms under 724.8B. This ensures that Iowans' due process rights are protected, and he can't be disarmed through accusations alone.

Second, HF-2718 establishes meaningful civil penalties for violations. If a state or local agency knowingly participates in an unlawful seizure in defiance of this statute, the affected citizen may seek civil damages of \$50,000 against that law enforcement agency or political subdivision. Note that these civil suits are not able to be filed against individual officers. This provision is critical. Without real consequences, statutory protections have little real-world impact.

Some have sensationally claimed that this legislation prevents peace officers from ever seizing firearms. That's completely false. Page 2, lines 11-13 clearly allow firearms to be seized as evidence during the course of a criminal investigation.

Others have claimed this bill would prevent peace officers from stopping a person that they believe is threatening to commit an act of violence. That's false, too. Iowa Code 708.6, 708.7 and 708A.5 remain in full effect and give Iowa peace officers plenty of tools to address real threats.

Our peace officers retain full authority to investigate crimes, make arrests, and prosecute individuals who violate the law. What the bill prevents is the preemptive stripping of a

fundamental constitutional right from citizens who have not been convicted of wrongdoing.

The need for this legislation is not theoretical or distant -- it is immediate and pressing.

There are 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' proposals pending in the Iowa Senate right now in the form of SF-2122. This legislation has an ex parte provision, so gun owners would not be able to defend themselves. It has an almost built-in renewal process, which would result in a lifetime gun ban. And the list of 'evidence' that can be used against gun owners includes, "Evidence of recent acquisition of a firearm." Merely buying a firearm would be used as 'evidence' against gun owners!

Iowa voters made their position unmistakably clear in 2022 when they approved a constitutional amendment affirming the right to keep and bear arms as a fundamental right subject to strict scrutiny. HF-2718 gives practical effect to that mandate by ensuring that government cannot bypass due process to achieve through civil proceedings what it could not obtain through criminal law.

Iowa would not be the first state to ban 'Red Flags,' either. States such as Wyoming, Montana, and Texas have already banned 'Red Flags' with laws that contain a combination of civil and even criminal penalties. HF-2718 places Iowa firmly in line with those states that respect both public safety and our Second Amendment.

I should note that this bill passed the Iowa House of Representatives by a decisive vote of 67–29, demonstrating broad legislative support for protecting our gun rights as well as our due process rights here in Iowa.

Ultimately, this legislation is about a simple principle: in America, rights are not taken first and litigated later. The burden remains on the government to prove wrongdoing before depriving a citizen of a fundamental liberty.

For these reasons, Iowa Gun Owners strongly urges the Sub-Committee to advance House File 2718 without amendment or delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Dorr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aaron Dorr  
Chairman  
Iowa Gun Owners