

February 27, 2021

RE: OPPOSITION to Iowa HSB 254: Background Check Repeal and Permitless Carry

To whom it may concern:

I am concerned about the plan to pass Iowa HSB 254. I consider this an incredibly significant and personal matter as it affects the safety of our Iowa communities and families. Iowa lawmakers have a responsibility to put the safety and security of our communities first by rejecting this dangerous and radical bill.

I would like to state that I fully support gun ownership; however, I strongly believe that past evidence has proven that background checks, permits to carry concealed weapons, and firearm safety training reduces homicide rates, lowers firearm suicides rates, and lowers accidental gun deaths in children. For instance, when the state of Connecticut passed a law requiring background checks, a 40 percent reduction in gun homicide rates were seen. When the state of Missouri passed a similar bill to Iowa HSB 254, a 27 percent increase in firearm homicide was observed. It is not only dangerous but highly irresponsible to ignore these statistics. Passing this bill does not prohibit responsible gun owners from owning guns but it will allow easy access to felons, domestic abusers, and those with mental illness to purchase handguns.

As stated, this is a highly personal matter with the majority of Iowans sharing my stance on maintaining background checks and permits to carry. In a November 2020 poll, Iowa voters strongly supported stronger gun laws almost 4:1. Furthermore, the majority of these Iowans polled believe that background checks are even more important during the current pandemic. As an Iowa community member and parent living in a gun-owning household, I strongly oppose HSB 254. I urge you to ensure our public safety is maintained by continuing to require background checks and permits to carry concealed handguns in public places.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tracy Lindquist