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FOAC-ILLEA Opposes House Bill 2206 as Illegal Backdoor Gun Registry and Suggests HB 335 is a Solution in Search of a Problem

Pittsburgh, PA – Firearms Owners Against Crime Institute for Law, Legislative, and Educational Action (FOAC-ILLEA) announced today that the organization is opposed to Pennsylvania House Bill 2206 (HB 2206) and House Bill 335 (HB 335). They urge representatives to vote against HB 2206 as it violates federal law and HB 335 as it does not address any actual concerns while taking away Pennsylvanian's rights.

“House Bill 2206 is yet another attempt by the liberal majority of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to institute a backdoor illegal gun registry in Pennsylvania,” said Jim Stoker, President of FOAC-ILLEA. “Such a registry is illegal under federal law 18 USC 926 which clearly prohibits the registration of firearms. The bill would create an illegal, digital gun registry, and would have ZERO effect on resident safety and the prevention of gun crimes.”

HB 2206 is currently scheduled for a full floor vote in the House of Representatives today, Monday, May 6. If passed, the bill will require licensed firearms dealers to transmit the purchaser's name, address, employer, and work address electronically to the Pennsylvania State Police when they sell a firearm.

In a 2001 lawsuit, the PA State Police admitted that their 100-year-old gun registry did not solve any crimes. They instead claimed that it had “assisted” in four cases in those 100 years, but the organization was unable to identify which four cases or provide any details on the cases.

The legislature need only look to other jurisdictions to see similar outcomes:

- New York state abandoned its gun registry after spending tens of millions of dollars and finding that it helped to solve a single gun crime.
- The Honolulu police chief told the Hawaii Senate in 2000 that he couldn't find any crimes that had been solved due to registration and licensing. The chief also said his officers devoted about 50,000 hours a year to registering and licensing guns. Police could have spent that time on traditional, time-tested law enforcement activities.
- In a 2013 deposition, the Washington, D.C. police chief could not “recall any specific instance where registration records were used to determine who committed a crime, except for gun possession offenses.”

FOAC-ILLEA is also opposing House Bill 335 that seeks to outlaw bump stocks because, it suggests, a bump stock simulates the rate of fire of a machine gun.

“HB 335 is another example of a solution in search of a problem and a misrepresentation of the truth by Democrats who are continually trying to infringe upon residents' Second Amendment rights,” continued Stoker. “Its premise is a fallacy. Any item that simulates the rate of fire of a machine gun is already

regulated by the National Firearms Act as well as under 18 Pa. C.S. § 908 (Prohibited Offensive Weapons). It's unnecessary and will have no effect on public safety.”

FOAC-ILLEA urges members of the PA House to vote against both bills on the floor.

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FOAC-ILLEA is a 501(c) (4) organization and is Pennsylvania's largest and oldest grassroots second amendment organization. We are organized to provide analysis of proposed firearms and sporting related legislation to the government on the impact and ramifications of proposed legislation, to develop educational material on firearms safety, to develop educational material on current laws pertaining to firearms ownership for both Pennsylvania and the United States, to sponsor, host and/or participate in events and activities that promote the education of individuals in firearms safety and current law, conducting research and publicizing the positions of elected officials concerning firearm sportsmen's related issues, and defend firearm related issues thru legal defense and directed legislative action including grassroots action.