

Deanne Davis
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Dear Senate and Assembly Members,

I was present at the hearing today and wanted to speak in opposition to AB245.

I have two neighbors with sons who turned 18 this past year who eagerly joined the military to serve and protect our country. When they come back from Basic Training, this bill would make it a criminal act for these young men, and others like them, to handle the same weapons they have been using. It would prevent them from going to the shooting range to stay in practice or train for advancement. It would prevent them from enjoying recreational shooting with their family, or teaching and inspiring their younger siblings how to safely use a firearm. This bill is an insult and injustice to all the brave young Americans who are willing to risk their lives defending our country, but would be prohibited from protecting themselves or their family at home.

Nevada is not like other states. We have a hundred-thousand square miles of rural and wild areas, much of which does not even have cell-phone service. Police protection is often far away or not accessible at all. Young people who live on farms or ranches, who are traveling our lonely highways, or who are out enjoying recreational activity have a right to protect themselves. Not only are there threats from criminals, but also from rattlesnakes, bears, coyotes, and mountain lions. Many young people have saved themselves or their family from death or injury by knowing how to use firearms.

This bill interferes with parental rights to teach their children necessary life skills. All throughout our state, children as young as 5 years old are being taught how to safely use firearms. A large number of these young people go on to serve honorably as law enforcement or in the military, with a head start in knowledge, skill and precision. Hundreds of businesses, gun ranges, and training academies rely on income from customers who are under 21 years old. This bill is bad for business and bad for Nevada's economy.

Most importantly, AB245 is a violation of our Constitutional rights. The Second Amendment says a person's right to bear arms shall NOT be infringed. People under 21 are protected by the Constitution, and they should not be denied the right to defend themselves. Please vote NO on AB245.

Deanne Davis