

Members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

I write to oppose the proposed legislation regarding the reporting of lost and stolen firearms. (HF 601 (Her)) While well-intentioned, this bill imposes stringent reporting requirements that may prove burdensome for law-abiding firearm owners.

The swift escalation of penalties, from petty misdemeanor to gross misdemeanor for repeat violations, raises concerns of disproportionate punishment for inadvertent lapses in compliance.

While immunity from prosecution is offered to compliant individuals, the practical challenges of adhering to these requirements may undermine the effectiveness of this provision.

A more effective approach to reducing gun violence would be to rigorously enforce laws against crimes perpetrated with firearms that are already on the books. By focusing on enforcement rather than imposing additional burdens on responsible gun owners, we can achieve the goal of public safety without unduly infringing on individual rights.

I urge the committee to reconsider this legislation and explore alternative approaches that balance public safety with the rights of firearm owners.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
James Woodson  
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