

FOR REP. NORDBERG

TESTIMONY BY PHIL ROSS

SUPPORTING SB 6

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

3/22/2017

MY NAME IS PHIL ROSS. AND THANK YOU, MISTER CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY ONCE MORE TODAY. AND KUDOS TO AN UNBENDING SUPPORTER OF 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS, REP. NORDBERG, FOR BEING PRIME SPONSOR OF THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION IN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE. I AM HERE, REPRESENTING MYSELF, TO SPEAK STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 6.

I FIND THIS BILL ESSENTIAL IN UNDERSCORING AND PRESERVING OUR GUARANTEED, GOD-GIVEN, CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS. I EARLIER MENTIONED BRIEFLY MY EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS AS A VIETNAM ERA ARMY VETERAN.

TO BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC, IN THE ARMY, I WAS REQUIRED TO QUALIFY ON THREE DIFFERENT RIFLES AND A .45-CALIBER PISTOL – EARNING EXPERT BADGES ON ALL FOUR. I WAS ASSIGNED TO OPEN-CARRY ONE OF THE RIFLES AND THE SIDEARM AS A POSTAL GUARD ON A MAIL TRUCK TRANSPORTING LETTERS AND VARIOUS SIZE PARCELS, SOME CONTAINING

SENSITIVE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, TO AND FROM OUR POST, A SUPPLY DEPOT, TO THE RAIL STATION, THROUGH A CROWDED CIVILIAN AREA IN KOREA, SUPPOSEDLY RIFE WITH NORTH KOREAN AGENTS, ON A TWICE-DAILY BASIS. TO EMPHASIZE THE ONGOING SERIOUSNESS OF THREATS TO OUR SECURITY AND SAFETY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, JUST 2 MONTHS AFTER I RETURNED TO THE STATES, THE NORTH KOREANS COMMANDEERED THE U.S.S. PUEBLO IN WATERS OFF THE NEARBY KOREAN COAST.

HENCE, I AM KEENLY AWARE OF THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF SB 6, EVEN A HALF-CENTURY LATER. TODAY'S SERVICE MEMBERS, LIKELY EVEN MORE QUALIFIED INHERENTLY TO HANDLE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED FIREARMS THAN WE WERE IN THE LATE '60s, HAVE EARNED AN EXTRA NOD TO EXERCISE THEIR FULL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

OBVIOUSLY, SB 6 IS VERY SIMPLE AND DIRECT: IT EXEMPTS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FORMER ARMED FORCES OR CURRENT ACTIVE-DUTY MEMBERS WHO ARE AT LEAST AGE 18 OR OLDER FROM THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF UNLAWFULLY CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON. THIS ALSO INCLUDES CURRENT OR FORMER NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS. THUS, THE MEASURE SENDS THESE UNSELFISH SERVANTS TO OUR COUNTRY A POSITIVE MESSAGE THAT WE VALUE THEIR SERVICE, AND TRUST THEM TO BE ABLE TO EXERCISE A GUARANTEED INDIVIDUAL RIGHT. REP. NORDBERG'S BILL ALSO ALLOWS LEGAL CONCEALED WEAPON PERMIT HOLDERS WHO HAVE NO

MILITARY PEDIGREE TO ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS, IF THEY ARE AT LEAST AGE 21 OR OLDER.

ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE REFLECT BACK ON SOMETHING AS TRAGIC AS THE FORT HOOD SHOOTING. WHO KNOWS HOW MANY LIVES LOST IN THAT MASS SHOOTING COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED IF THEIR COMRADES-IN-ARMS WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO "PACK" LEGAL PERSONAL HANDGUNS?

I ALWAYS MENTION MY PRIDE AND HONOR TO TESTIFY MERELY AS AN INFORMED CITIZEN, AND REITERATE THAT FOR A SECOND TIME IN THIS HEARING, SINCERELY HOPING MY TESTIMONY SOMEHOW ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE.

TO SUM UP, PLEASE, AS RESPONSIBLE AND GRATEFUL LAWMAKERS, VOTE TO EXTEND THIS IMPORTANT EXEMPTION TO CURRENT AND FORMER MILITARY AND NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS, AND RESPONSIBLE ADULT GUN OWNERS WHO ARE NOT CONNECTED TO THE MILITARY.

WITH THAT, MISTER CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, I STRONGLY URGE A YES VOTE ON SENATE BILL 6. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR LETTING ME TESTIFY, AND I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.