



NEVADA FIREARMS COALITION

5575 Simmons Street, Suite 1-176
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89031
702-373-5935
www.nvfac.org
www.facebook.com/nvfac
don@nvfac.org

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RE: SB 277

Dear Chair Jones and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

The Nevada Firearms Coalition is dedicated to the safe use of firearms for self-defense, competition, recreation and hunting. We are a Nevada grassroots organization representing the firearms owners of Nevada. We are the State Association for the National Rifle Association, and a member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

SB 277 seeks to clarify existing statutes to include a definition of those suffering from mental illness as a "prohibited possessor of firearms."

The relationship of mental health to the exercise of freedom is a very delicate balance. We all know of repressive governments who use mental health as an excuse to incarcerate those who disagree with the government.

Currently, NRS 433A.310 4. states: *4. If the court issues an order involuntarily admitting a person to a public or private mental health facility pursuant to this section, the court shall, notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 433A.715, cause, on a form prescribed by the Department of Public Safety, a record of such order to be transmitted to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History, along with a statement indicating that the record is being transmitted for inclusion in each appropriate database of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.*

NRS 433A. 200 as cited in the proposed statute relates to involuntary court ordered admissions. However, this bill lowers the standards to apply to someone who was petitioned against with a concurrent denial to rights for three years. This bill is flawed because it denies due process and subjects a person to arbitrary standards. The prohibited possessor should be determined by a court determination, not by a petition that can be filed by anyone without a trial or evidence. The wording is in violation of the Constitutional guarantee of due process.

Strike all references to "petition" in the text.

The Nevada Firearms Coalition strongly objects to this bill as a denial of due process under the Constitution, and we request that the Senate Judiciary Committee not pass it out of the committee.

Sincerely,

Don Turner, President