

GIFFORDS

COURAGE TO FIGHT GUN VIOLENCE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 300 (LONGHURST)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY: NICO BOCOUR, STATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, GIFFORDS
DATE: JANUARY 23, 2018

Chair Longhurst and members of the House Administration Committee:

On behalf of Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and her husband Captain Mark Kelly, I would like to state our support for House Bill 300, the bill to ban bump stocks. H.B. 300 would make it a crime to sell, transfer, buy, receive or possess a trigger crank or bump-fire device designed to accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle, making such weapon function more like an automatic weapon.

Bump stocks and other similar devices simulate the rapid, continuous fire of an automatic firearm, which makes them especially dangerous and horrifyingly appealing to those who seek to inflict as much harm as possible.

In October 2017, this nation experienced the deadliest mass shooting in modern history when a gunman used multiple bump stock devices in his attack in Las Vegas. Despite the horror of what happened in Las Vegas and repeated calls for action from a concerned public, Congress has refused to take action to ban bump stocks. Now, states are leading the way resulting in bipartisan efforts to protect residents where Congress won't. Since the shooting in Las Vegas, both Massachusetts and New Jersey have enacted bans on bump stocks and more than 18 states have introduced legislation to ban bump stocks and other similar devices.

Giffords is honored to be working with partners in Delaware to pass critical gun safety legislation, including this bill addressing bump stocks. We urge you to support H.B. 300, which will help to protect Delawareans from preventable gun violence.

ABOUT GIFFORDS

Giffords is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Giffords inspires the courage of people from all walks of life to make America safer.