



NAACP

Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference

Hon. Speaker Laurie Jinkins
339C Legislative Building PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Hon. Majority Leader Pat Sullivan
339A Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504

Hon. Minority Leader J.T. Wilcox
335C Legislative Building PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Lawmakers,

NAACP stands in strong opposition to SB 5561 as it requires petitioners seeking to restore their gun rights to show that they have been rehabilitated by a preponderance of evidence. Such discretionary requirements have proven to be racially oppressive.

SB 5561 does nothing to increase protection against gun violence. Law abiding behavior under RCW 9.41.040(4) is already a current requirement; as such, stopping criminal behavior of any kind has already occurred. Instead, lawmakers should focus only on repeat criminal offenders.

NAACP opposes all legislation which negatively impacts the constitutional rights of Black and other communities of color throughout our region. In this proposed action, a racial equity impact study has not been conducted; stakeholders have not been engaged; and the unintended consequences of creating a burden of proof cannot be met. We urge you to oppose SB 5561.

We urge you to not bring this bill to the floor for a vote and to create a workgroup with all stakeholders impacted by this bill to determine if there is actually any problem this bill would address.

Respectfully,

Waldo Waldron-Ramsey
Vice President
NAACP Alaska Oregon Washington State-Area Conference