

TO: Assembly Committee on Judiciary FROM: Representative Gae Magnafici

DATE: October 6th, 2021

SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of AB 572

Chairman Tusler and committee members, thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 572.

Across the country, our Second Amendment rights are under attack. Wisconsinites know that better than anyone else. Our Attorney General, Josh Kaul, actively advocates for gunrestriction bills. In his budget, Governor Tony Evers requested that the state have a say in firearm transfers between two private citizens. The number one point on President Joe Biden's "gun safety" platform is to allow for frivolous lawsuits against firearm manufacturers for crimes committed by others.

Lawsuits against firearm manufacturers are one way the left is trying to restrict our rights. They believe they should be able to simply sue American manufacturers out of business if someone commits a crime with a firearm.

Needless lawsuits against firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition manufacturers are the opposite of what we think of in terms of civil liability. When a crime is committed, we blame the criminal, not the gun.

With Democrats at the helm of our Federal Government, it has never been more important to pass Assembly Bill 572, which protects manufacturers and others from these needless lawsuits.

Thank you to Senator Bradley for co-authoring this bill with me, and thank you to the firearm industry job creators who are here today to testify. I'm happy to take any questions.



Assembly Bill 572: limiting civil liability for firearm, firearm accessory, and ammunition manufacturers, distributors, importers, trade associations, sellers, and dealers.

Assembly Committee on Judiciary Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Chairman Tusler and committee members,

Thank you for scheduling this hearing. This bill would codify a simple principle, that those who commit a crime are responsible for their crime.

In 2005, this basic liability protection was passed at the federal level through the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. This legislation was passed with broad bipartisan support.

Senator Herb Kohl, Congressman Ron Kind, and Congressman Dave Obey all voted for the bill.

Unfortunately, 16 years later, it appears this common-sense federal law is under threat from President Biden. If Congress repealed the federal law, it is easy to envision a judge with a desire to restrict 2nd Amendment rights finding for an activist plaintiff in a lawsuit. That's why passing the state-level protections in Assembly Bill 572 is so crucial.

We cannot give activist judges the opportunity to restrict the 2nd Amendment by creating a way for them to frivolously bankrupt firearms manufacturers.

Since the passage of the federal in 2005, over 30 other states have passed similar state-level protections. These protections exist in blue states like Washington and red states like Texas. Given the current threats to the federal law, it is time Wisconsin establishes these protections at the state level.

Chairman Tusler, Vice-Chair Kerkman, and Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Becky Yackley and I am a second-generation member of a family with a history of work in the firearm industry. For over 30 years my father was a gunsmith for Krieger Barrels. Kriegers are family friends. They make some of the world's best rifle barrels and have been used by our military for decades. My mom did what you would call "cottage work" for them while the 7 children in my family grew up around firearms. I now work creating social media and marketing content for different brands. In Wisconsin, I do this for Krieger Barrels, the same place my father worked.

I know first-hand how small businesses within the firearm industry are essential to the livelihood of Wisconsin's families. The German immigrants that were drawn to Wisconsin, with their attention to detail and work of this established this state as a strong manufacturing center. This is a history Wisconsin should be proud of! We have beer, AND we have talented machinists!

Wisconsin's firearm industry employs thousands of people. In 2020, it created over \$1 billion dollars of economic impact, and generated over \$104 million in tax revenue.

Wisconsin firearm manufacturing is home to many of the world's best barrel manufacturers. (Krieger, Criterion, & Brux, ...to name a few.) Wisconsin is home to a few big brands, but MANY small "mom and pop" shops - some of these people are my dearest friends, and they are passionate in their work and innovation. Many work with our government, military, and larger partners within the firearm industry...however they all employ Wisconsinites. That employment puts food on the table of families, like it did for my family growing up.

I'm here today to ask you to support Assembly Bill 572 and establish protections for the families who work in this industry. Protections that are present in other industries: for example, the breweries Wisconsin is known for. We don't see the breweries operating under the threat of being sued for the illegal acts of drunk drivers. This bill would afford the protections for those employed in the firearm industry - mothers and fathers with families to care for.

I'd like to point out how this bill potentially affects people like myself. In May of this year a complaint against Smith & Wesson was made and it named individuals who create content for the brand. Some of these are employed in marketing roles, some are just "influencers" who own a Smith & Wesson firearm. But the idea that lawyers would seek out any and all people who have ever spoken about using their Smith & Wesson strays into frivolous and predatory, in my opinion. I never want to fear that I'll be sued because I created a great social media campaign. It's ridiculous to imagine lawyers wasting money, time, and tying up the courts with witch-hunts like that.

The firearm industry is heavily regulated by existing federal and state laws. It serves police and military; the agencies responsible for YOUR safety here today. Those guards running security we all went through today; they're able to do their jobs because others chose a life of work in a manufacturing industry. And in Wisconsin that industry consists of many small businesses; parents and families, good people who have a talent for manufacturing and excellence.

So I ask you to support Assembly Bill 572.

If you didn't come into this hearing thinking that you would support this bill, I ask you to stop and look at the numbers:

- the thousands of families that this industry provides for
- the S1 billion+ in economic impact that this industry creates for Wisconsin

The livelihood of families is something anyone can identify as worth protecting, but it weighs on all of you to do so in your official capacity. And ensuring a billion-dollar industry stays in our wonderful state is important, especially in these economic times.

Thank you, Rebecca Yackley Chairman Tusler, Vice-Chair Kerkman, and Members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Judiciary, I am here to ask you to please support Assembly Bill 572, the Firearm Industry Protection Act.

My name is Cynthia Roth and I am the CEO and majority owner of Roth Concept Innovations LLC. RCI is a family-owned manufacturer of custom shotguns and accessories located in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. We have been in the firearms industry in Wisconsin for the last 12 years. I am wholeheartedly behind any legislation that puts the onus on people to take responsibility for their actions. This bill will establish a framework to cut down on excessive legal activity as the plaintiff could now be held liable for reasonable attorney fees and costs if the lawsuit is deemed frivolous by the courts.

I have personal experience of the financial harm that bill 572 would have potentially deterred. My company was sued in 2012. The plaintiff negligently discharged his shotgun and caused personal injury. His action violated many rules of firearm safety and common sense. My company made a single accessory on that particular shotgun. The plaintiff sued numerous parties in this lawsuit, with no repercussion to himself; that included the manufacturer of the shotgun, the store where he purchased the gun, and my company which sold him an accessory. But he didn't stop there, he sued my husband and I personally, and sued a company my husband owned in the construction field that had nothing to do with this lawsuit, amongst others he named in the lawsuit.

In America, you can sue anyone for anything, even if frivolous. The purpose of incorporating is supposed to give protection to business owners from being personally liable, but what is not recognized is the amount of money you will spend getting out of frivolous lawsuits personally or professionally. Because of depositions, discovery, expert's testimony, etc., it was 3 years before we could get in front of a judge to throw out the excessive defendants that never belonged in the lawsuit. In the meantime, our lawyers had to be paid. That's lawyers, plural because we needed business lawyers for the companies and a personal lawyer for us. Under the current law, all the money I was forced to spend was gone and I could not be reimbursed. The only people who made any money on this lawsuit were the numerous lawyers involved. We almost had to lay off all our employees and shut our doors.

I am proud to be a Wisconsin small business. Not only am I employer, I also support other local small businesses. We use several Wisconsin machine shops from Waukesha to Little Chute, an anodizer in Green Bay, a plastic injection mold making company in Hartford, a box making company in Neenah, amongst other companies, all in Wisconsin. This adds revenue into Wisconsin, not only in the firearms industry but in the other manufacturing market segments as well.

If you were not already planning to support Assembly Bill 572 when you came here today, I urge you to reconsider. It is families like mine that you will be protecting. My business, my family's livelihood and the revenue I create in all the local, non-firearm Wisconsin companies that I use to manufacture my products, bring dollars to Wisconsin. It is important to remember this bill will set a legal framework for people to take responsibility for their own actions and not abuse our court system in hopes of personal financial gain.

Thank you. Respectfully, Cynthia Roth

Part of the state of the state

Please support Assembly Bill 572

October 4, 2021

RE: Wisconsin Firearm Industry Supports Assembly Bill 572

Chairman Tusler, Vice-Chair Kerkman, and Members of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the hundreds of Wisconsin citizens employed by the undersigned companies, we write to urge your support for the Assembly Bill 572, otherwise known as the Wisconsin Firearm Industry Protection Act. According to most recent data, the firearm industry in Wisconsin currently generates over 6,500 jobs and had an economic impact on the state of \$1.09 billion in 2020. We are proud to provide products for law-abiding Wisconsin citizens that wish to partake in their Second Amendment rights and hunting heritage. Additionally, our industry plays a vital role in producing critical infrastructure products for law enforcement and military use.

The Wisconsin Firearm Industry Protection Act would defend the Wisconsin firearm industry from politically motivated and frivolous lawsuits by limiting the types of actions that may be brought against firearm, firearm accessory, and ammunition manufacturers, distributors, importers, trade associations, sellers, and dealers. It would ensure that the Wisconsin firearm industry cannot be held liable when lawfully made and sold products are unlawfully misused by a third party. This legislation would not create blanket immunity for our industry, as there are exceptions for cases like breach of contract, breach of warranty, or product defect.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, many big city mayors conspired with gun control advocates and trial lawyers in an effort to bankrupt the firearm industry by filing frivolous lawsuits when lawful products were unlawfully misused by others. To protect the firearm industry from these lawsuits, many states passed laws like the one that would be created by AB 572. Congress responded as well by implementing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), which was signed into law in 2005. Like AB 572, the PLCAA protects the firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits, but does not create total immunity as it still allows for lawsuits to be filed under circumstances like breach of contract, negligence, and product malfunction. Today, 36 states have liability protections in law to protect the firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits.

Now, the PLCAA is under attack. The Biden administration has repeatedly called for the repeal of the PLCAA since entering office in January of 2021. The Biden platform states that he wants to "Hold gun manufacturers accountable" by prioritizing the repeal of the PLCAA. At a Rose Garden ceremony in April, President Biden went as far as to say "If I get one thing on my list – (if) the Lord came down and said, 'Joe, you get one of these' give me that one," in referencing his goal to repeal the PLCAA.

With the ongoing attack on the PLCAA, it is critical for our industry and those that rely on our products, that Wisconsin become the 37th state to pass a state-level PLCAA. We respectfully urge your support for Assembly Bill 572.

Continued



Respectfully,

American Defense MFG

New Berlin

AmericanSnipers.org

Green Bay

AMMO, Inc.

Manitowoc

Astrid Defense LLC, USA

Hudson

Black Forest Firearms, LLC

Fontana

Dead Foot Arms LLC

Brooklyn

Flight & Field Fine Sporting Arms LLC

Trevor

H.M. Bohne, Gunsmith LLC

Madison

Henry

Rice Lake

Krieger Barrels, Inc

Richfield

Outlaw Customs

Albany

Ox Firearms

Milton

Stattons General Store, LLC

Harshaw

TNTE Sales Inc

Darien

Trigger Action Sports

Appleton

Vortex Optics

Barneveld



Statement to the Assembly Committee on Judiciary:

I am submitting written testimony in opposition to <u>Assembly Bill 572</u>, which is being considered by the committee today.

Nearly every consumer product has a federal regulating agency to prevent unsafe products from going to market. Firearms have no such oversight. Likewise, in most cases, people can use the civil liability of makers and sellers to get justice when unsafe products do make it to market and cause harm. Because no agency regulates guns before they reach the market, courts are the only way to hold the gun industry responsible for hazardous products and dangerous manufacturing, distribution, and sales practices. Already, federal law severely limits this judicial option.

AB 572 would go even further than the federal law to limit the judicial option. It would create an additional barrier for Wisconsinites seeking justice. For example, AB 572 would

- prevent claims based on harmful or careless behavior (e.g., nuisance and negligence claims),
- prevent third party claims if a gun discharges as part of a criminal act,
 and
- require judges to dismiss cases before the facts are heard.

This bill would essentially make the entire gun industry -- manufacturers, distributors, importers, trade associations, sellers, and dealers of firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition – immune from lawsuits brought by citizens seeking to hold the industry responsible for its wrongdoings in Wisconsin.

Further, this bill is being sold as a victory for gun owners; yet nothing could be further from the truth since many of those most likely to need to seek redress in the courts are gun owners and their families.

The bottom line is that this bill would go even further to prevent gun violence survivors and victims -- including gun owners -- from recovering damages and seeking justice.

I ask the committee, why? Why is this a priority when both gun suicides and homicides continue to devastate our communities? Why would this legislature pander to an industry that has taken no initiative to prevent gun deaths – gun deaths that are currently reaching numbers that are higher than they ever have been? We need real action from our elected officials to save lives in our state. Instead of limiting civil liability for the gun industry, our legislators must pass lifesaving gun laws that will prevent gun deaths and make Wisconsin safe.

I strongly urge you to reject AB572.

Thank you for your consideration,

Heidi Rose

Program Director
WAVE Educational Fund
hrose@waveedfund.org



PO BOX 329 WAUPACA, WI 54981 888.202.1645 WISCONSINGUNOWNERS.ORG









My name is Thomas Leager, and I represent the members of Wisconsin Gun Owners Inc., we are grateful to this body for the chance to speak in favor of AB 572. This bill offers muchneeded protection and relief for the gun industry.

It has long been the practice of firearm prohibitionists to assist in frivolous lawsuits related to the criminal misuse of firearms, ammunition, and firearms accessories—activities which fall outside the intended and lawful use foreseen by the manufacturers.

When we buy cars, it is with an understanding that Buick, Chevy, Ford, or Nissan will not pay our hospital bills if we get hit by a drunk driver, who happens to be in their make of car.

If someone buys a set of fillet knives and then turns around and commits a crime, well, we can't go around blaming the knife maker.

Though the FBI just came out with its uniform crime report for 2019, and it found that people are two times more likely to be murdered by knives than all types of rifles—including AR-15's, and shotguns combined.

Yet, we do not see billionaires like Bloomberg, or high-profile gun control lobbies like Every Town For Gun Safety or March For Our Lives, running campaigns against the makers of knives. Nor do we see them working on suing manufacturers of knives. They only assist in lawfare that is targeted toward the Second Amendment. They take an interest in doing an end-run around the U.S. Constitution and Section 25 of the Wisconsin Constitution by bankrupting anyone that dares manufacture guns, ammo, or accessories.

We at WGO are ecstatic that this bill has been presented, and none too soon, as AG Kaul has introduced bills advocating red-flag laws and universal background checks. We also see anti-gun lobbies destroying company after company with lawfare or pushing them out of their home state, like Smith & Wesson.

Wisconsin needs this law to send a message to those who oppose the rights of others that we will not allow our civil liability laws to be co-opted in such an abusive and morally egregious manner.

Thank You, Thomas Leager **Executive Director** Wisconsin Gun Owners Inc.

FBI UCR: https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/home

Please support Assembly Bill 572

October 4, 2021

RE: Wisconsin Firearm Industry Supports Assembly Bill 572

Chairman Tusler, Vice-Chair Kerkman, and Members of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the hundreds of Wisconsin citizens employed by the undersigned companies, we write to urge your support for the Assembly Bill 572, otherwise known as the Wisconsin Firearm Industry Protection Act. According to most recent data, the firearm industry in Wisconsin currently generates over 6,500 jobs and had an economic impact on the state of \$1.09 billion in 2020. We are proud to provide products for law-abiding Wisconsin citizens that wish to partake in their Second Amendment rights and hunting heritage. Additionally, our industry plays a vital role in producing critical infrastructure products for law enforcement and military use.

The Wisconsin Firearm Industry Protection Act would defend the Wisconsin firearm industry from politically motivated and frivolous lawsuits by limiting the types of actions that may be brought against firearm, firearm accessory, and ammunition manufacturers, distributors, importers, trade associations, sellers, and dealers. It would ensure that the Wisconsin firearm industry cannot be held liable when lawfully made and sold products are unlawfully misused by a third party. This legislation would not create blanket immunity for our industry, as there are exceptions for cases like breach of contract, breach of warranty, or product defect.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, many big city mayors conspired with gun control advocates and trial lawyers in an effort to bankrupt the firearm industry by filing frivolous lawsuits when lawful products were unlawfully misused by others. To protect the firearm industry from these lawsuits, many states passed laws like the one that would be created by AB 572. Congress responded as well by implementing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), which was signed into law in 2005. Like AB 572, the PLCAA protects the firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits, but does not create total immunity as it still allows for lawsuits to be filed under circumstances like breach of contract, negligence, and product malfunction. Today, 36 states have liability protections in law to protect the firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits.

Now, the PLCAA is under attack. The Biden administration has repeatedly called for the repeal of the PLCAA since entering office in January of 2021. The Biden platform states that he wants to "Hold gun manufacturers accountable" by prioritizing the repeal of the PLCAA. At a Rose Garden ceremony in April, President Biden went as far as to say "If I get one thing on my list – (if) the Lord came down and said, 'Joe, you get one of these' give me that one," in referencing his goal to repeal the PLCAA.

With the ongoing attack on the PLCAA, it is critical for our industry and those that rely on our products, that Wisconsin become the 37th state to pass a state-level PLCAA. We respectfully urge your support for Assembly Bill 572.

continued -



Respectfully,

American Defense MFG

New Berlin

Flight & Field Fine **Sporting Arms LLC**

Trevor

AmericanSnipers.org

Green Bay

H.M. Bohne, Gunsmith LLC

Madison

AMMO, Inc.

Manitowoc

Astrid Defense LLC, USA

Hudson

Black Forest Firearms, LLC

Fontana

Dead Foot Arms LLC

Brooklyn

Henry

Rice Lake

Krieger Barrels, Inc

Richfield

Outlaw Customs

Albany

Ox Firearms

Milton

Stattons General Store, LLC

Harshaw

TNTE Sales Inc

Darien

Trigger Action Sports

Appleton

Vortex Optics

Barneveld



SUPPORT

THE WISCONSIN FIREARM INDUSTRY PROTECTION ACT

Senate Bill 570 and Assembly Bill 572

Sponsored by Senator Julian Bradley and Representative Gae Magnafici

This legislation would protect the Wisconsin firearm industry from politically motivated and frivolous lawsuits by limiting the types of actions that may be brought against firearm, firearm accessory, and ammunition manufacturers, distributors, importers, trade associations, sellers, and dealers. Specifically, it would prohibit actions brought by a person for "1) recovery of damages resulting from or injunctive relief or abatement of a nuisance relating to the lawful design, manufacture, marketing, or sale of a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition or 2) recovery of damages resulting from the criminal or unlawful use of a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition by a third party." This bill would not prohibit actions brought against the firearm industry for "1) breach of contract or warranty concerning firearms, firearms accessories, or ammunition purchased; 2) injunctive relief to enforce a valid statute, rule, or ordinance, except for actions otherwise barred under the bill; or 3) death, physical injuries, or property damage resulting directly from a defect in design or manufacture of the product when it is used as intended or in a reasonably foreseeable manner."

In the 1990s and early 2000s, over 40 big city mayors conspired with gun control advocates and trial lawyers in an effort to bankrupt the firearm industry by filing frivolous lawsuits when lawful products were unlawfully misused by others. Andrew Cuomo, who at the time was serving as Health and Human Services Secretary in the Clinton administration, said that he hoped to use frivolous lawsuits to bring about "death by a thousand cuts" to the firearm industry. To protect the firearm industry from these lawsuits, many states passed laws like the one that would be created by SB 570/AB 572. Congress responded as well by implementing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), which was signed into law in 2005. Like SB 570/AB 572, the PLCAA protects the firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits, but does not

create total immunity as it still allows for lawsuits to be filed under circumstances like breach of contract, negligence, and product malfunction. Today, <u>36 states have liability protections</u> in law to protect the firearm industry from frivolous lawsuits.

Now, the PLCAA is under attack. The Biden administration has repeatedly called for the repeal of the PLCAA since entering office in January of 2021. The <u>Biden platform</u> states that he wants to "Hold gun manufacturers accountable" by prioritizing the repeal of the PLCAA. At a Rose Garden ceremony in April, President Biden went as far <u>as to say</u> "If I get one thing on my list – (if) the Lord came down and said, 'Joe, you get one of these' give me that one," in referencing his goal to repeal the PLCAA.

KEY MESSAGES

- 36 states have approved liability protections for manufacturers, distributors, and retailers.
- Congress passed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to protect the firearm industry across the country in 2005.
- O President Biden has made the repeal of the PLCAA a priority of his administration.
- With the federal PLCAA under attack, state protections are crucial to ensure the Second Amendment rights of citizens are not eroded by politically-motivated lawsuits.



Schmidt, Melissa

From:

Rep.Tusler

Sent:

Friday, October 08, 2021 11:32 AM

To:

Schmidt, Melissa

Subject:

FW: Assembly Bill 572

For your records

From: Anneliese Dickman <adickman@bradyunited.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:32 AM

To: Rep.Tusler < Rep.Tusler@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kerkman < Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Ramthun

<Rep.Ramthun@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Thiesfeldt <Rep.Thiesfeldt@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Horlacher

<Rep.Horlacher@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Sortwell <Rep.Sortwell@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Cabrera

<Rep.Cabrera@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Hebl <Rep.Hebl@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Ortiz-Velez <Rep.Ortiz-</pre>

Velez@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Cc: Heitman, Kathryn <Kathryn.Heitman@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Andraca, Deb <Deb.Andraca@legis.wisconsin.gov>;

Sen.Darling <Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Assembly Bill 572

To the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

As a Wisconsinite, a parent, an attorney, and the Milwaukee program manager for the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, I urge you to defeat the un-American and un-just Assembly Bill 572.

By seeking to provide state immunity for civil liability to the gun industry, the bill would remove key incentives for the gun industry to adopt life-saving business practices that keep our communities safe and would, instead, provide cover to irresponsible gun dealers and manufacturers who supply the criminal gun market. Thus, this faction of the gun industry would profit from dangerous business practices, with no accountability to their victims. Good dealers do not need special protection from the law; bad dealers do not deserve it.

Courts should be allowed to apply established Wisconsin law and, in appropriate cases, hold accountable gun companies who choose to profit from the criminal gun market. It is essential that these corporations pay their fair share of the damage they have caused. This bill would silence victims of gun violence and have a chilling effect on this traditional American process of accountability. The firearms industry should not enjoy special protections that no other sector receives.

Nor should victims of gun violence be further punished by being denied access to justice and compensation after already enduring unspeakable tragedy. This bill would turn victims of gun industry negligence into second class citizens, without the same civil rights to seek justice as other Wisconsinites. That's wrong, it's un-American, and it's deadly.

Gun violence disproportionately affects Black and Brown Wisconsinites. In Wisconsin, young Black males are disproportionately impacted by firearm homicide, with Black males aged 15-34 having a <u>firearm homicide rate 56 times higher</u> than white males of the same age group. Among Hispanic Wisconsinites, the gun death rate has <u>nearly doubled from 2015 to 2019</u>. This bill is an attempt to stop those most impacted, people of color, from seeking accountability from the companies who fuel gun violence. Gun violence victims in our state and in our country have the right to seek civil justice against all wrongdoers who cause them harm; this bill

unjustly bars the courthouse doors to these victims and gives the gun industry freedom to act irresponsibly without the checks and balances of the legal system.

In addition to these victims, the bill would also disproportionately harm families and members of law enforcement who are injured or killed in the line of duty—the bill language precludes claims from third parties who have been shot by a gun discharged during the commission of a crime. Although injured Wisconsin law enforcement officers in the past have successfully recovered damages from the gun industry, current or future officers would be left without recourse.

In America, everyone should get their day in court and have the right to be able to bring a case and present evidence of harm. This bill sets a dangerous precedent that attacks judicial independence, and would dictate that courts must dismiss legitimate cases against the legislature's favored industry of the moment. Like every lawyer, I know that sometimes judges agree with me and sometimes they disagree. But I also know that Wisconsin judges are fully capable of fairly applying the law, as they have always done. The legislature should not be dictating who wins and who loses civil justice lawsuits simply because a politically powerful industry might be held accountable under the law.

This bill seeks to dismiss cases before the facts are even heard. By attempting to remove this avenue of accountability and restorative justice, especially in a way that disproportionately harms people of color and law enforcement officers, Assembly Bill 572 is a threat to one of the foundations of the American system. You must defeat this bill.

Anneliese Dickman Bayside, WI 414-915-7785

Anneliese Dickman Program Manager, Milwaukee

Brady Campaign and Center to Prevent Gun Violence 840 First Street, NE, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20002

adickman@bradyunited.org 414-915-7785 (cell)

Every gift helps free America from the grip of gun violence. <u>Be part of the solution today.</u>

Join the Brady Community!
Facebook
Twitter