



**To: Hon. Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219**

**Re: Senate Bill 848 – Purchase of Certain Firearms
Senate Bill 1181 – Possession of Assault Firearms**

Position: Oppose/Veto Requested

Date: March 19, 2025

Dear Governor Youngkin,

My name is Kaleigh Leager, and I am the Assistant Manager, Mid-Atlantic States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I write to you today requesting the veto of two bills: Senate Bill 848 (SB 848) – Purchase of Certain Firearms and Senate Bill 1181 (SB 1181) – Possession of Assault Firearms.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Prohibiting the purchase and possession of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns by individuals under 21 would be extremely detrimental to current efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate (R3) hunters and recreational shooters to the outdoor sporting community. R3 programs often focus on recruiting non-traditional demographics to engage in our time-honored traditions. The purchasing and possession restrictions in SB 848 and SB 1181 would have a disproportionately negative impact on individuals who want to become involved in hunting or recreational shooting, but lack mentorship, community ties, or personal relationships within the sporting community to source a rifle or shotgun to participate in hunting or recreational shooting pursuits, further marginalizing non-traditional participation in outdoor sports.

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SB 848 and SB 1181 would also reduce funding for conservation through decreased contributions through the “user pays – public benefits” structure of the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF)¹ via the Pittman-Robertson Act, which directs a manufacturer-level excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment to be used for wildlife conservation purposes. Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dispersed over \$989 million in total funding to the states for wildlife conservation and hunter education programs, which is largely and directly tied to taxes paid by the firearm and ammunition industry.

By prohibiting individuals under 21 from purchasing and possessing semi-automatic rifles and shotguns severely restricting their ability to possess those same items, SB 848 and SB 1181 would reduce the funding contributions from the sporting community for wildlife conservation. This is of crucial importance to Virginia as approximately 77% of the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) budget is comprised of funds directly generated by sportsmen and women. Therefore, any barriers or disincentives to participate in hunting and recreational shooting directly impact the funds available for conserving Virginia’s prized wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request you veto Senate Bill 848 and Senate Bill 1181.

Sincerely,



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¹ [American System of Conservation Funding – Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation](#)

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