



To: Members of the Nevada Assembly Judiciary Committee

Re: Assembly Bill 245 – Firearms – Raising Age to Possess Semi-Automatic Firearms to 21

Position: Oppose

Date: March 27, 2025

Dear Members of the Nevada Assembly Judiciary Committee,

My name is Barry Snell and I am the Assistant Manager of the Southwestern States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I am writing today in opposition to Assembly Bill 245 (AB 245), the bill to raise the minimum age to purchase or possess a firearm to 21.

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, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, 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 getting non-traditional demographics engaged in our time-honored traditions. The possession and inherent purchasing restrictions in AB 245 would have a disproportionately negative impact on individuals who want to get involved in hunting or recreational shooting, but do not have the community ties or personal relationships to be able to borrow a rifle or shotgun to go hunting or recreational shooting, further marginalizing non-traditional participation in outdoor sports.

AB 245 would also reduce funding for conservation through decreased contributions through 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 \$1.5 billion in total funding to the states for wildlife conservation, of which \$1.1 billion was directly tied to taxes paid by the firearm and ammunition industry.

By prohibiting individuals under 21 from possessing semi-automatic rifles and shotguns and severely restricting their ability to possess those same items, AB 245 would reduce the amount of

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

funding available for wildlife conservation. This is of crucial importance to Nevada as the majority of the Nevada Department of Wildlife's annual 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 Nevada's prized wildlife and its habitat.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please oppose AB 245.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry B. Snell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Barry B. Snell
Assistant Manager, Southwestern States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
bsnell@congressionalsportsmen.org
Mobile: 240-962-8461

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation