



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**PAUL HEROUX**  
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**RE: H1305 – An Act relative to firearms suppressors**

**DT: 1 March 2016**

Dear Chairman Naughton,

I am writing to you today to encourage you to release from your Committee H1305, An Act relative to firearms suppressors. Earlier today, I toured a company in Massachusetts that manufactures these devices. I learned a lot that dispelled common misperceptions of their product.

For example, these are not silencers. In fact, the silencers we see in movies don't exist. Suppressors are designed to reduce the sound decibel rating from 160-180 down to 140-160, which helps prevent serious or even permanent hearing loss. The CDC has weighed in supporting firearms suppressors because of the important function they perform preventing hearing loss or damage. It is estimated that VA disability payments due to hearing loss is in excess of \$2 billion annually. Firearms suppressors are a way to help preserve the hearing of those who use firearms. This is a public health issue.

Additionally, firearm suppressors enhance the area surrounding gun clubs. They are able to decrease the sound by a third of the distance reducing adjacent neighbor complaints.

This technology is legal in 41 states and in Europe they are so common and not regulated; one is able to go into a hardware store and purchase a firearms suppressor.

These devices are not firearms. They do not increase crime and they have not been used to commit crimes. Being a heavily regulated product the AFT keeps permanent records on the location and ownership of each unit. There are about 800,000 nationally. Of the people who own these 800,000 suppressors, only 9 people have committed crimes, none of which were done with their suppressor. Additionally, it takes 6-8 months to get approved for a federal background check to get a suppressor. This is a very heavily regulated product.

Mr. Chairman, I am hoping that you will release H1305 favorably from committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Heroux".

Paul Heroux