

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 104

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-  
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE  
4 STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-sev-  
7 enth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has before it the Hearing Protec-  
9 tion Act; and

10 WHEREAS, the Hearing Protection Act will reclassify suppressors to reg-  
11 ulate them like a regular firearm; and

12 WHEREAS, the Act would benefit Idaho's recreational gun users and pro-  
13 vide them better access to hearing protection equipment; and

14 WHEREAS, Idaho's Senator Jim Risch supports the Act and has commented  
15 that: "Idaho's sportsmen and women want to safely and legally enjoy recre-  
16 ational activities such as hunting and target shooting, but burdensome gov-  
17 ernment regulations unfairly restrict access to suppressors. The Hearing  
18 Protection Act will reclassify suppressors to allow Idaho's law-abiding gun  
19 owners to more easily protect their hearing and enjoy this pastime"; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Mike Crapo has been the chief sponsor of the Hearing  
21 Protection Act since 2017 and Congressman Russ Fulcher is one of 52 original  
22 cosponsors of the Act in Congress; and

23 WHEREAS, suppressors are safety tools that reduce the sound of gunfire  
24 to a level that will not cause instant and permanent hearing loss. Suppres-  
25 sors enable more accurate marksmanship and allow shooting ranges to be bet-  
26 ter neighbors; and

27 WHEREAS, suppressor restrictions from the 1930s put the hearing health  
28 of gun owners at risk; and

29 WHEREAS, under current law, suppressors are regulated as heavily as ma-  
30 chine guns under the prohibition-era National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934.  
31 Any NFA firearm or suppressor carries a mandatory \$200 tax, for which a stamp  
32 is issued proving the payment of that tax once the application is approved.  
33 It is not uncommon to have to wait up to 270 days for the paperwork to be pro-  
34 cessed; and

35 WHEREAS, removing suppressors from the NFA would not pose a threat to  
36 public safety. It would reduce the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms'  
37 workload and allow the agency to direct more resources to reducing violent  
38 crime, rather than processing paperwork.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
40 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-  
41 resentatives concurring therein, that we urge the United States Congress to  
42 pass the Hearing Protection Act.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is  
2 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the  
3 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of  
4 Congress and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho  
5 in the Congress of the United States.