

SB 1685

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 and 12 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 1685. As a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment and the holder of an A rating from the National Rifle Association, I have consistently supported and approved legislation that preserves and strengthens an individual's constitutional right to bear arms. Senate Bill 1685 does nothing to enhance 2nd Amendment protections and its unintended consequences are more likely to produce benefits for criminals in Oklahoma and potentially disastrous results for the state's law enforcement officers and law-abiding citizens. By exempting Oklahoma-manufactured guns and ammunitions from federal law, SB 1685 would enable criminals to obtain a wide array of weaponry, including fully automatic machine guns, without undergoing a simple criminal background check or meeting other basic federal requirements. Oklahoma would likely become a safe haven for domestic and international offenders seeking to elude federal gun safeguards and obtain weapons of all kinds. In the final analysis, SB 1685 would endanger law enforcement officers and citizens without doing anything to strengthen an individual's right to bear arms. Furthermore, because there is no way to ensure Oklahoma-manufactured weapons will remain in the state, this legislation violates the interstate commerce clause and is unconstitutional. Any state effort to selectively ignore federal laws will certainly draw a legal challenge and result in a costly court battle that the state cannot win.