

Firearms Industry Non-Discrimination (FIND) Act – Government Contracts SB 482 – Senator Kellie Warren

- Prohibits large companies that discriminate against the firearm industry from entering into significant goods and services contracts with government entities in the state.

In 2013, the Obama Administration began a clandestine program codenamed Operation Chokepoint. It used the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and Department of Justice to choke off essential financial services to members of the firearm and ammunition industry. Now ended, corporate leaders, serving as misguided social justice warriors, have privatized this unethical and abusive government program for all intents and purposes.

Bank of America, for example, established a policy of refusing to do business with any manufacturer of so-called “assault weapons.” Of course, the emotionally-loaded reference is to the more than 20 million Modern Sporting Rifles owned by Americans. These guns constitute half of all of the rifles made today and virtually all of the largest firearm makers produce them, along with dozens of other lawful, heavily regulated businesses.

According to the FBI, 297 murders were committed with rifles *of any kind* in 2018, the year BofA established its discriminatory policy. This is a representative number year-to-year. It might be estimated that around half of these crimes involved what this big bank’s officials would consider an “assault weapon.” Many of those murdered were part of the violent criminal underworld, not innocent parties.

When considering 150 murders out of a population of 330 million people, “saving innocent lives” is clearly not the objective behind the effort to end production of the most popular rifles of modern-day America. The executives are siding with the radical gun ban movement aimed at taking power from the people. It is about control. The empirical numbers, the one thing these bank executives should understand, make this obvious.

A growing number of essential service providers have begun similar discrimination programs. The state has an interest in discouraging these businesses from actively working to cripple the firearm and ammunition makers and retailers, as they make possible the citizens’ exercise of an essential, constitutionally protected freedom. At the very least, the state should not allow monies collected from the citizens to be used to benefit these companies working to erode the constitutional freedoms of all Kansans.

It is time for big bank executives and others to stop acting like mob bosses with the “you will... or else” ultimatums issued to law-abiding, financially responsible American companies. They, like the Obama Administration, understand the extent of the power they wield and how it can be used to undermine constitutional rights. They should not be allowed to effectively force radical public policy change that you, the people’s democratically elected representatives, are unwilling to enact for good reason.