

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS21876

Idaho citizens, State and local authorities spend millions of dollars on hearing loss mitigation every year. Evidence supports that 50% of hearing impairment in Idaho is caused by improperly protected ears during shooting activities like hunting or other shooting sports. Firearm suppressors (similar to a muffler on a car) are a viable option and solution to reduce noise pollution throughout the state while providing greater protection to Idaho citizens from hearing loss due to gunfire. Today, suppressors are legal to be used in Idaho for most shooting activities (hunting and other shooting sports) however, there is federal \$200 tax stamp barrier to ownership and use. This barrier is significant, especially for lower income Idaho citizens.

Idaho is home to many of the world's premier suppressor manufacturers whose business growth suffers from the same federal tax stamp barrier. Allowing manufacture, purchase, ownership and transfer between citizens, within Idaho borders (Intrastate Commerce), should not be subject to federal oversight for a non-restricted use device and should be exempt from federal law or federal regulations in Idaho. This would include registration, tax, or stamp fee as long as it is manufactured in Idaho and remains in Idaho.

This bill also tasks the office of the Attorney General with seeking injunctive or other appropriate relief, or defending the citizens of Idaho against suites brought by the U.S. Government in violation of this policy.

The legislative intent is to help improve public health by reducing the exposure, injury and hearing loss due to gunfire while saving Federal, State and citizen expenditures on expensive hearing loss mitigation and hearing support devices. It is also anticipated that by de-regulating suppressors and suppressor manufacturers, the State will receive an economic boost, while growing Idaho employment opportunities through expansion due to greater sales. Additional savings are anticipated in cuts to healthcare costs relating to hearing loss attributable to gunfire exposure.

### FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact depends upon the necessity and extent of any action required by the office of the attorney general in the case that the Federal authorities challenge this health and public safety measure. Enforcement may require up to one additional attorney and staff at a cost of approximately \$100,000. The office may, however, be able to cover it with existing resources at lesser or no additional cost. The economic boost to State business (and associated sales taxes) and employment (and associated income tax) is not calculable, but is inevitable due to the popularity of expected use.

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