

Red Flag Laws Aren't Laws: "They're Tyranny On Paper"

By Alan Korwin

Before beginning, a note about our nation's now openly sworn enemy of gun rights, the party of democrats, who have lined up a massive palette of infringements. Some have already been pushed (illegally, if the Constitution still matters) through the House of Representatives, which they control.

Democrats are using their new power to seek national red-flag laws. State-by-state versions aren't sufficient. Democrats could not have picked a more terrifyingly appropriate name, or one with more historical significance. Our own politicians! When Mao Ze Dung, the brutal Marxist dictator who ruled communist China after that 5,000-year-old religious dynasty fell at last, he implemented red-flag laws. Laws designed to turn neighbor against neighbor, to make fellow countrymen enemies of each other. The internal terror this spread is hard to imagine, but let's try.

Under a regime of red-flag laws, anyone can secretly turn you in to the authorities, for anything. You have no protection from that, no recourse, and no way to duck. Due process is effectively eliminated. Later, you can go hire expensive lawyers and sue city hall. The current proposal, Senate Bill 7, debated on March 26, is loaded with deception. You'll hear only family members can turn you in, but that includes former lovers, roommates...and police. Because anyone can tip off police, who can then act on their own, the family "limitation" is complete subterfuge, meaningless. That's how legislators drafted this.

You'll hear it requires a court order, but that includes any order signed by a magistrate, "a civil officer or lay judge...especially one who conducts a court that deals with minor offenses and holds preliminary hearings...." The hearings can be *ex parte* – you don't have to be there – and can be conducted by telephone. Compelling evidence includes, "relevant information from household members."

"I'm sure he's dangerous your honor, I know he has guns!"

Since the federal government can't run local police ops – that's still beyond the pale – this is accomplished through financial coercion, a quasi-legal but common scheme. Any state that doesn't enact red-flag rules according to strict federal guidelines will be denied grant money to run red-flag programs. Fortunately, no state has a program matching the feds' new guidelines. From the looks of it, no state can, so we catch an unexpected break.

Bottom line, this regimen would mean keep your head down and hope no one notices you. Don't say a bad word to or about your neighbors. Only whisper to the ones you trust. If any of them, or anyone with a grudge, reports you to authorities, even anonymously, armed police teams can arrive unannounced, wake you from sleep, and haul you away. Sure, it's a worst-case scenario. Tell that to Roger Stone.

Though it looks sanitized and proper, the police can ransack your home "with legal authority" to confiscate any firearms and ammunition you may own (the purpose of the law – disarm the dangerous). Officials can't trust that these on-the-brink murderers turned in all their guns.

Nothing really prevents officials from taking other things they may find, and you can complain later. If you dare. And can prove it. And nothing may happen, except you'll be painting a target on yourself. A warrant with things specified? Are you kidding? The bill doesn't go there. Punishment for false accusations? There isn't any. Medical help because...they're psychos? Nope.

Legitimate mechanisms already exist to deal with truly dangerous individuals, “but that’s so cumbersome” comes the fearful cry. It should be, so blatant tactics only apply when clear and present dangers exist. If you follow “news stories,” you know people have reported unexploded nut cases to police, who did nothing, before the crazies went nuts. That’s a problem.

Making it easy to red-flag citizens is simply wrong, guilt by casual suspicion of anyone nearby. “I think he’s a commie!” or whatever the flavor of the day is. “He’s got guns!” Lefties think that defines dangerous. Is that what you want America to become? It is what the democrat-socialist’s leadership thinks, and unfortunately, some of the so-called opposition is not opposed. They know not what they do. They’re killing America.

You can’t just take guns from really dangerous people on somebody’s say-so. It makes them really angry. Leave them with their knives, matches, car keys...and hidden guns? Those folks can’t be walking around in public, without mandatory medical attention. Red-flag laws are tools of oppression that have nothing to do with safety.

Award-winning author Alan Korwin has written 14 books, ten of them on gun law, and has advocated for gun rights for nearly three decades. See his work or reach him at GunLaws.com