

GUS M. BILIRAKIS

12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Marvin Richardson
Acting Director
Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
99 New York Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Acting Director Richardson,

I am writing today to express my concern regarding the recent Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) notice for proposed guidance on "Factoring Criteria for Firearms with Attached 'Stabilizing Braces.'" This proposed guidance is not only alarming because it jeopardizes the rights of law-abiding gun owners and disabled combat veterans across the country, but it also continues the troubling trend of the ATF's vague guidelines that arbitrarily threaten the livelihood of businesses trying to operate and make a living in the gun modification space.

This proposed guidance, which lacks clear and specific parameters or testing criteria, would create senseless confusion and harm to citizens trying to lawfully exercise their right to bear arms. It is unclear if this would be applied in a way to make millions of law-abiding citizens felons overnight, if someone currently in possession of a lawful pistol with a stabilizing brace is negatively impact retroactively, or if there is some other expectation to clarify the classification. It also does not include a process for disabled veterans to report a disability to be exempted from the process.

Additionally, the vagueness of the proposed guidance poses severe market implications for businesses trying to operate in the marketplace for gun modifications. Many businesses are coming out of the pandemic with hopes and aspirations to return to business as normal. However, this proposed guidance seeks to regulate the market without providing businesses clear guidelines or parameters as to what constitutes a modification that would turn the firearm into a short-barreled rifle. These businesses are trying to allow law-abiding citizens, particularly disabled veterans, to enjoy their constitutionally protected right.

I urge you to take corrective action and withdraw this proposed guidance and work towards providing law abiding citizens and businesses clear parameters and definitions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gus M. Bilirakis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the text.

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress