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Dear Bill:

Like all concerned Americans, I was shocked and appalled upon hearing of the senseless and horrific tragedy in Las Vegas. I was thankful for the rapid response from the hotel security and Las Vegas Police to quickly halt the bloodshed. But almost with the next breath, I knew this would renew efforts to promote gun control legislation over the Second Amendment. I have also come to realize that in this Constitutional fight proponents of gun control will play fast and loose with the truth by inaccurate reporting or by “fake news.” Such is the case in the frontpage headline of the Waco Tribune Herald stating Congressman Bill Flores supports a bump stock ban. When I read that, I called the Congressman who set me straight on what he actually said and reported.

Here is what the Congressman actually said,

“As a gun owner and a staunch supporter and defender of the Second Amendment, I believe that the recent tragedy in Las Vegas prompts a congressional review of bump stocks and similar devices that allow semiautomatic weapons to act like automatic weapons, which are currently subject to tight federal licensing requirements.” Nothing in this statement indicates Flores is in favor of a ban. I agree with Flores that this type device should be the subject of regulation and licensure and not a ban. The problem with a ban is incrementalism. Any successful assault on the Second Amendment will be followed by further assaults until our constitutionally protected rights are obliterated. In the words of Congressman Flores, “Not on my watch!”

Congressman Flores is correct – the bump stock should be subject to control and licensure. This is what I understand to be the stance of the NRA as well.

We would do well to remember that there is evil in this world and evil people who intend and will commit harm regardless of what law may be printed on a piece of paper. As evidence of this truth, witness the level of homicides in Chicago, a city with one of the toughest, if not the toughest, anti-gun laws in the nation. With rights come responsibility, but also risk of abuse of that right. Las Vegas was such an abuse. But that does not warrant the eradication of the underlying right.

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