



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Rex Scott, District 1

## State Statute 13-3108 Firearms regulated by state is wrong

**Tuesday, August 2, 2022**

There is one overarching reason that we should join together as a Board and as a community to vigorously oppose Arizona Revised Statute 13-3108 by all means necessary: we must confront the wrongs this statute causes and represents.

It is wrong for state government to impede through this statute the role counties have under Arizona state law as the public health authorities for their regions.

It is wrong, due to the existence of this statute, for state government to stand in the way of local governments who seek to take action to address mounting public concerns about gun safety, gun violence and the need for common sense gun regulations.

It is wrong for Pima County to be denied, because of this statute, the right to insist that gun sales on its property be conducted solely by those who hold federal firearms licenses and who therefore put their buyers through background checks.

It is wrong, as the language of this statute insists, for state government to arrogantly insist that local governments cannot enact laws dealing with guns that differ substantially from what the state has put in place.

It is wrong for this statute to call for penalties and sanctions against any local government or individual who seeks to take on its self-centered and wrongheaded belief that only state government can know what is right and just when it comes to gun safety and regulation.

It is wrong, due to the mindset that this statute represents, that any reasonable measure to address the epidemic of gun violence and death in this country is reflexively and falsely branded as a brazen assault on constitutional rights and personal liberties.

It is wrong, just as they failed to lead in fighting the greatest public health crisis in a century that state government is failing to lead in taking on gun violence. And, just as they sought to impede the ability of local governments to address the COVID pandemic, they also stand in the way of local governments that want to protect their people from gun violence.

If we enact this resolution, we will call on the legislators and governor who take office in January to repeal this statute. The resolution also directs Pima County Attorney Laura Conover and her staff to provide the Board with the means to move forward with a lawsuit to challenge this statute. We will be providing that office with more than three months to do the necessary research to find the grounds to take on this law.

If the people who represent us in Phoenix do not act to repeal this statute, we will see them in court. This country leads the world in incidents of gun violence and death. Our people demand that we act to take on this reality. Denial and inaction will only lead to more loss. If Arizona state government refuses to lead, they need to get out of the way of local governments who are determined to do so. It is time for us to fight for both local control and common sense.

##