



To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed language in HB508. I have been in the bail bonding industry for over 30 years and am currently licensed in 4 states. I have built a reputable career and TV franchise in the business of writing bail and returning defendants. I can tell you there are several problems with the language in this bill.

I have never used a firearm when returning a defendant and I teach bounty hunters and bondsmen to use every non-lethal option instead of a gun. This bill would require bail enforcement agents to get and keep a concealed and carry license in order to assist in returning a defendant. These people have not been trained on use of force and do not receive law enforcement training. Using a gun to defend yourself is very different than using one while arresting a defendant and I can tell you this policy will only result in more shootings and more danger to the public's safety. My recommendation would be to require bail agents to go through some kind of use of force training before allowing them to use firearms to apprehend.

Along those same lines, it is extremely important that bail enforcers and bondsmen carry badges as well. This bill would not allow them to carry badges. Bail enforcers are not trying to mimic cops but they are still put into very dangerous situations every day. A badge lends legitimacy and identification and many times that authority is enough to de-escalate situations. It also provides open and easy to recognize identification in the field. This is useful not only to law enforcement but also to the general public.

Also, federal law prohibits a felony conviction from being an indefinite precursor to obtaining a work license. By limiting those who can do this work to those who can obtain a conceal and carry license you forever restrict those who have had a conviction in their past. I myself was convicted of a felony 39 years ago and I served my time to society. Since then I have been very successful in my work and try to show those in trouble that they don't have to be criminals for the rest of their lives. Under this language, I and others like me would not be able to work in the state. I have helped many bondsmen in Idaho with their skips and I would like to do more work there in the future.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I want you to know that I am committed to helping your state with good policy measure to meet your needs and those in the industry.

Respectfully,

Duane "Dog" Chapman