

Gun control and gun bans have historically been rooted in racial bias.

If this bill passes, Black and Latino communities will be the most affected. Many of this bill's supporters are progressives from low-crime areas who are disconnected from the reality we face—having to protect ourselves from home invasions, robberies, and random acts of violence.

In our communities, police are not our allies. Unlike in their neighborhoods, we are constantly targeted, leading to deep distrust. A recent review of Providence Police arrest logs showed that the majority of car stops involved Black and Latino individuals—so much so that “Non-Hispanic” is a specific category used to distinguish stops between all other races.

From its very inception, gun control has been built on one foundation: racism.

- 1640 Virginia (Later Amended)
“That all such free Mulattoes, Negroes and Indians..Shall appear without arms.”
- 1712 Virginia
Race-based total gun ban
“An act for preventing Negroes insurrections”
- 1806 Louisiana
Complete gun and self defense ban for slaves.
Black Code, Ch.33, Sec.19, Laws of La. 150, 160(1806)
Provided that a slave was denied the use of firearms and all other offensive weapons.
- 1819 South Carolina
Master's permission required for gun possession by a slave.
- 1825 Florida
Slaves and free Black homes searched for confiscation.
“An act to govern Patrols,”1825Acts of Fla. 52,55 – Section 8
- 1831 Delaware
Free blacks permitted to carry guns if court approval.
In the December 1831 legislative session, Delaware required free blacks desiring to carry firearms to obtain a license from a justice of the peace.
- 1831 Maryland
Race-based total gun ban.
In the December 1831 legislature session,
Maryland entirely prohibited free blacks from carrying arms.
- 1833 Georgia
Race-based total gun ban.
Act of December 23, 1833, Sec. 7, 1833 Ga. Laws 226, 228
declared that “it shall not be lawful for any free person of color in this state, to own, use, or carry firearms of any description whatsoever.

- 1840 Texas
Complete gun ban for slaves.
“An act concerning slaves,” Sec. 6, 1840 Laws of Tex. 171, 172, ch.58
of the Texas Acts of 1850 prohibited slaves from using firearms altogether from 1842-1850.
- 1844 North Carolina
Race-based gun ban upheld because free blacks “not citizens”
In *State v. Newsom*, 27N.C. 250 (1844), the Supreme Court of North Carolina upheld a Slave Code law prohibiting free blacks from carrying firearms on the grounds that they were not citizens.
- 1852 Mississippi
Race-based complete gun ban.
Act of Mar. 15, 1852 ch. 206, 1852 Laws of Miss. 328
forbade ownership of firearms by both free blacks and slaves.
- 1792 United States
Blacks excluded from the militia,
i.e. law-abiding males thus instilled with the right to own guns.

Here we are in 2025, once again facing a disproportionate attack on Black and Latino communities—disguised as an effort to curb gun violence. Yet, this bill will do nothing to stop the actual perpetrators of the crimes it claims to address.