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Sen. Campbell Applauds Favorable AG Opinion on Gun Store Zoning Issue

AUSTIN – Senator Donna Campbell started the legislative session by requesting an Attorney General opinion on the constitutionality of San Antonio's proposal to restrict the sell of guns and ammunition in certain areas of the city through broad zoning laws. On the last weekend of the legislative session, the conservative lawmaker received a favorable answer that casts concerns on efforts by cities to override state law when it comes to the second amendment.

"If cities think they can effectively override the second amendment rights of citizens by passing ordinances that single out firearm and ammunition sales, they are gravely mistaken," said Senator Campbell. "I applaud the Attorney General for issuing this opinion and bringing clarity to the law before San Antonio attempts to pass any overreaching proposals that infringe on the rights of its residents."

From the summary of the Attorney General opinion:

Subsection 229.001(a)(1) of the Local Government Code prohibits a municipality from regulating the transfer, private ownership, keeping, transportation, licensing, or registration of firearms, air guns, knives, ammunition, or firearm or air gun supplies. Subsection 229.001(b)(3) excepts from this prohibition a municipality's regulation on the use of property or businesses and the location of businesses as long as the regulation does not circumvent the intent of subsection (a)(1). A regulation that expressly prohibits gun stores from operating in a specific area relates to the transfer of firearms and is prohibited by subsection 229.001(a)(1). Similarly, an ordinance singling out firearm and ammunition sales relates to the transfer of firearms and is therefore prohibited.

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State Senator Donna Campbell represents Senate District 25, which includes all or parts of Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Kendall, and Travis Counties.