



HAROLD V. DUTTON, JR.
TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

Legislative District 142

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February 27, 2025

Chairman Andy Biggs
House Subcommittee on Crime
Federal Government Surveillance
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 60, Knife Owners' Protection Act

Dear Chairman Andy Biggs, Ranking Member McBeth, and Members of the House Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance,

I am a Democratic State Representative from Texas, proudly serving District 142 in Houston. Since 2013, I have worked alongside Knife Rights to advance critical knife reform legislation. As the primary author of several key criminal justice reform bills, I have been committed to ensuring that my constituents—many of whom are particularly vulnerable in encounters with law enforcement—are protected from unnecessary and unjustified scrutiny.

Reforming knife laws is an essential step in removing one of the many pretexts law enforcement officers have historically used to stop Black and Brown knife owners, often under the guise of merely examining the type of knife they carry. We know that such stops can escalate into convictions, imprisonment, and, too often, tragic outcomes.

Knives serve a myriad of lawful purposes in daily life, and many of my constituents carry them as essential tools required by their employers. It is our duty to protect law-abiding individuals from undue harassment and criminalization simply for possessing a tool they need for work or personal safety. Importantly, since enacting these reforms in Texas, we have seen no negative consequences—only safer and fairer conditions for our communities.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support H.R. 60, the *Knife Owners' Protection Act*. This legislation is a necessary step toward ensuring that responsible knife owners across the

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Juvenile Justice & Family Issues, Chair
Public Education
Youth Health & Safety

country are not unfairly targeted and that they can exercise their rights without fear of legal repercussions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold V. Dutton, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

HAROLD V. DUTTON, JR.

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