

## **GOAL Hosts Firearm Suppressor Education Events**

### ***GOAL Bill Would Legalize Suppressors for Public Sale; Help Increase Hearing Protection for Shooters, Hunters***

**BOSTON** – The [Gun Owners' Action League of Massachusetts \(GOAL\)](#) held a demonstration of firearm suppressors for law enforcement at the [Westwood Gun Club](#) in Medfield, MA on Thurs., June 8<sup>th</sup> and for legislators and staff at the [Old Colony Sportsmens' Association](#) in Pembroke, MA on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. These demonstrations were co-sponsored by the [American Suppressor Association \(ASA\)](#), a trade association for the suppressor community, and two manufacturers, [Yankee Hill Machine](#) locally based in Florence, MA and [SilencerCo](#), based in Utah. The Friday event for legislators and staff was sponsored by [Rep. Josh Cutler](#) (D-Duxbury) and [Sen. Vinny DeMacedo](#) (R-Plymouth).

Members of law enforcement, elected officials and their staff attended these demonstrations to become more familiar with these firearm accessories which help to reduce gunshot noise by 20-35 decibels on bolt-action rifles, semi-automatic rifles, semi-automatic handguns, and shotguns.

A firearm suppressor, more commonly known in Hollywood movies as silencers, is a device attached to or part of the barrel of a firearm that only reduces, not eliminates, the amount of noise when fired. Suppressors are the hearing protection of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for sportsmen and woman across the United States. By decreasing the overall sound signature, suppressors help to preserve the hearing of recreational shooters and hunters. It also can help to mitigate noise complaints from those who live near shooting ranges and hunting land.

GOAL held these demonstrations in support of its [legislation, An Act Relative to Suppressors](#), which will legalize the sale and possession of suppressors to private citizens. Massachusetts currently is one of the last states that continues to ban the sale of suppressors unless the individual is a federally licensed manufacturer or law enforcement officer. GOAL's bill does away with the state prohibition and creates severe penalties for the criminal use of such devices. Suppressors are currently legal for public sale in 42 states and can be used for hunting in 40.

This demonstration also answered questions and dispelled common myths associated with firearms suppressors. Common misunderstandings include:

- 1) Suppressors make firearms silent – Not true. Suppressors are mufflers for firearms. They only lower the sound signature of the firearm shot by 20-35 decibels and does not “silence” a firearm.
- 2) Suppressors will not be picked up by ShotSpotter technology – No, this is incorrect and has been dispelled publicly by ShotSpotter CEO, Ralph Clark in a recent March 20, 2017 [Washington Post article](#) by investigative journalist Glenn Kessler that examined the truth about suppressors.

GOAL's legislation, *An Act Relative to Suppressors*, has been filed in both the MA House and Senate by:

- [Rep. Paul Frost - H.789](#)
- [Senator Don Humason - S.1317](#)
- [Senator Michael Moore - S.1340](#)
- [Rep. Josh Cutler - H.763](#)

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