

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG

**LYNCHBURG RANGE & TRAINING, LLC
d/b/a SafeSide Lynchburg,**

VIRGINIA CITIZENS DEFENSE LEAGUE,

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA, INC.,

and

ASSOCIATION OF GUN RANGES OF VIRGINIA,

Plaintiffs,

Case No.

v.

**HON. RALPH S. NORTHAM
(In his Official Capacity as
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia),**

and

**GARY T. SETTLE
(In his Official Capacity as
Superintendent of the Virginia State Police),**

Defendants.

AFFIDAVIT OF ERICH M. PRATT

I, Erich M. Pratt, certify under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1. I am a U.S. Citizen and Virginia resident. I make this declaration in support of the Complaint, Application for Temporary Injunction, and Petition for Writ of Mandamus. If called as a witness, I can testify to the truth of the statements contained herein.

2. I am Senior Vice President of Gun Owners of America, Inc. (“GOA”) which is organized as a California non-stock corporation, and is registered to do business in Virginia, with its principal place of business in Virginia, at 8001 Forbes Place, Springfield, VA 22151. GOA is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, and has over 2 million members and supporters. GOA’s mission is to preserve and defend the Second Amendment rights of gun owners.

3. GOA has tens of thousands of members within the Commonwealth of Virginia, including members in Lynchburg, Virginia. Many of our members obtain education, instruction, certification, practice, and training across the state at the indoor shooting ranges which were closed by Governor Northam’s Executive Order 53. Some of these persons have limited (or no) other choice of places to shoot. Outdoor ranges often present difficulties for their use, particularly for training purposes by new shooters: they often are not open to the general public but are membership based, requiring applications with sponsors, and payment of dues for annual memberships; they sometimes require users to walk some distances from parking to shooting locations, and thus are not readily accessible for those with disabilities; during winter or bad weather conditions they are not convenient to use, and present distractions for training; and they often are located at considerable distance from population centers where indoor shooting ranges are most likely to be located.

4. Denied the ability to visit indoor shooting ranges during the pendency of the Governor’s order, GOA’s members and supporters and others are being deprived of the ability to obtain certification in order to obtain concealed carry permits, as some trainers require range time. They are deprived of the ability to receive training and practice the safe and effective use of firearms under the controlled conditions provided by indoor ranges. Because of that, GOA’s

members are being irreparably harmed by being denied the ability to exercise their right to keep and bear arms, including the training in the inherent right of self-defense.

5. Gun owners use firearms in a remarkably high number of cases every month to defend themselves and their family members, and sometimes third parties, against violent acts by criminals. If Executive Order 53 is not enjoined as it applies to indoor shooting ranges, GOA's members will continue to be put at additional risk of becoming victims, unable to effectively defend themselves against criminal actions.

6. It is my belief that Executive Order 53, as it applies to indoor shooting ranges, violates Virginia law, Article I, § 13 of the Constitution of Virginia, Article I, § 7 of the Constitution of Virginia, and the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Erich Pratt

Erich M. Pratt

4-8-20

Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me in my District, this 8th day of April, 2020.

Commonwealth of Virginia, City/County of Fairfax

Eleanor Clediath McDaniel

Notary Public

[SEAL]

My Commission Expires: 12-31-22

