



## Legislators should pass state "Sovereignty Act"

Mike Clifford

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In the Arkansas Legislature, House Bill 1435 is proposed to become the Arkansas Sovereignty Act of 2021 "concerning the right to bear arms in the state of Arkansas and concerning other constitutional rights.

In the House Judiciary Committee the other day, Scott Bradley of the Arkansas Sheriffs Association and Gary Sipes of the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police testified against this bill. In response to a question as to whether they felt it necessary to enforce an unconstitutional law, Sipes said they swore an oath to uphold the law, including federal law as "the supreme law."

First, here is the Arkansas Oath of Office: "I, \_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of \_\_, upon which I am now about to enter."

Note it says "support the Constitution," not the "unConstitution."

Second, when they quote "supreme law" they are referring to Article VI of the U.S. Constitution. Article VI states "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof." Note it says "in pursuance," which means "to follow." It does not say unconstitutional.

No officer or government official should ever follow unconstitutional laws. Never! Both Bradley and Sipes should resign immediately. They have shown their complete ignorance of the Constitution. If they do not, the Arkansas Legislature should demand their resignations along with both associations.

Police are given qualified immunity. This means they can do things the average citizen cannot. However, being a police officer is not even listed in the top 20 most dangerous jobs in America, according to Industrial Safety and Hygiene News. Qualified immunity gives to the police a special class of citizenship. This is unconstitutional. The Constitution only gives individual rights, not class or group rights.

Police can say they were just following orders. Remember, "just following orders" was the defense in the Nuremberg Trials. That defense was unsatisfactory then just as it is now. If an act is unconstitutional, it is unconstitutional, period.

According to the Cato Institute, an American is eight -- yes, eight -- times more likely to be killed by the police than by a terrorist. Remember, the police are paid to protect us, while the terrorist is paid to kill us. Let this sink in. You are eight times more likely to be killed by the police than by a terrorist. That is a very revealing and scary statistic!!

The Legislature needs to pass HB 1435.

Mike Clifford, Bentonville