



**Statement of Ranking Member Zeldin (R-NY)
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
House Committee on Foreign Affairs**

“Proposed Small Arms Transfers: Big Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy”
March 26, 2019

Remarks as Prepared

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to our witnesses for testifying today. The decision to transfer certain defense articles and services from State to Commerce began in the Obama Administration.

This was part of a larger interagency process to modernize the United States Munitions List to ensure the State Department retained oversight over only the most critical military and defense articles with military end use.

This rule was supposed to be rolled in December 2012.

This rule change had strong bipartisan support, but got caught up in a domestic gun control debate that had nothing to do with export control reform.

The process to move certain defense articles has already begun. In fact, here are just some of the categories of weapons that have already moved to commerce licensing controls: launch vehicles and missiles, explosives, military aircraft, submersible vessels, tanks and the list goes on.

Once again, these defense articles have already moved to Commerce control.



The jurisdictional transfer of certain defense articles in Categories 1, 2, and 3 to Commerce will reduce the regulatory burden on State to create a simpler, and more robust system of compliance.

And the U.S. government is not removing export controls for firearms or ammunition.

Commerce still requires that U.S. companies obtain a license to export, or re-export to any country, any weapon currently on the commerce control list, a function it already performs. Any licenses that include these transferred items would still be reviewed by the State Department.

Additionally, the government, that is both State and Commerce will continue its longstanding end-use monitoring efforts, including vetting of potential end-users, to help prevent human rights abuses.

This rule change should be finalized. After years of input from both sides of the aisle to make the change from State to Commerce, there is no reason this decision needs to be delayed any longer.

I yield back the rest of my time.

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