

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



**February
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CCRKBA BLASTS PROPOSAL TO MANDATE GUN LICENSES

CCRKBA has ripped into a congressional bill to ban the possession of handguns and semiautomatic firearms accepting detachable ammunition feeding devices that would require government issued licenses to do so.

The bill, H.R. 45, was introduced by Rep. Bobby Rush of Illinois, during the first week of the 111th Congress. It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, under the chairmanship of anti-gun Rep. John Conyers, Jr. of Michigan.

Short titled Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009, its stated objective is "to provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and a record of sale system for those firearms."

Blasting this bill, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "The obvious purpose of H.R. 45 is to make it impossible for a law-abiding citizen to even possess a handgun or semiautomatic firearm for any reason without authorization from some government authority.

"This as an outrage. The thrust of this measure is to eliminate the individual right to keep and bear arms and substitute for it a privilege to be granted or not granted by some government licensing authority."

Snyder said also that, "We have a difficult legislative fight on our hands. We are faced with the administration of a president who was elected with the most anti-gun public record in history. Although he tried to soft pedal during last year's presidential campaign, America's 90 million law-abiding gun owners are skeptical and wary, especially since President Barack Obama's party maintained majorities in both houses of Congress.

"CCRKBA will do all it can to resist the pressure for enactment of H.R. 45 and other anti-gun legislation. We need your support so that we may battle H.R. 45 and other anti-gun proposals that may wend their way through Congress."

H.R. 45 would provide that no person other than a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed collector may lawfully possess a handgun or any semiautomatic firearm that can accept any detachable ammunition feeding device unless the person has a valid federal license to possess such firearm or a valid state license. The bill would regulate the sale or transfer of the affected firearms.

Readers of *Point Blank* who oppose H.R. 45 can write, call and visit their own U.S. Representative, let him or her know in what you think of this bill, and request the Representative to oppose the measure.

CCRKBA SUPPORTS FIRST PRO-GUN BILLS

CCRKBA announced its all-out support last month for the first pro-gun bills introduced in the 111th Congress.

"Although we're faced with an uphill battle this year with an unfriendly presidential administration and both houses of Congress dominated by members of the same party as the anti-gun president, there are strong supporters of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms in Congress and we will give their pro-gun rights proposals our firm support," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said in Washington, D.C.

Snyder noted that, "One of the most pro-gun legislative developments in recent years has been the popularity in the individual states of legislation authorizing the carrying of concealed firearms by law-abiding citizens. States have issued permits to carry concealed firearms and even have mandated the issuance of such permits to qualified persons. What has been missing is federal legislation to universalize the legality of such concealed carry throughout the nation, similar to the way in which driver licenses are recognized.

"H.R. 197, the proposed National Right to Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009, would go a long way to do just that. We fully support it. We ask our members to write, phone and email their Representatives and urge them to cosponsor it."

Introduced in a bipartisan spirit by Rep. Cliff Stearns of Florida, a Republican, and Rep. Rick Boucher of Virginia, a Democrat, H.R. 197 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Under H.R. 197, a person with a

state-issued CCW permit would be able to carry in other states. If the carrier carries in a state with a CCW law, the carrier would be able to carry under the same restrictions which apply to the carrying of a concealed firearm by a person to whom the state has issued such a license or permit. If the carrier carries in a state without a CCW law, the carrier could not carry in a police station, public detention facility, courthouse, public polling place, school, at a meeting of a state, county or municipal governing body, at a professional or school athletic event not related to firearms, in a portion of an establishment licensed by the state to dispense alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, or inside the sterile or passenger area of an airport, except to the extent expressly permitted by state law.

Snyder also stated that, "CCRKBA gives its complete support to H.R. 17, the proposed Citizens' Self-Defense Act of 2009, introduced by Rep. Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland. If enacted into law as it ought to be, the bill would protect rights which law-abiding gun owners hold dear."

Offered to protect the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family, or home, and to provide for the enforcement of such right, H.R. 17 also was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 17 would reaffirm that a law-abiding citizen has the right to obtain rifles, shotguns and handguns and to use firearms for defense against a reasonably perceived threat of imminent and unlawful infliction of serious bodily injury; in the course of commission by another person of

a violent felony against the citizen or a member of the citizen's family; and in defense of the citizen's home in the course of the commission of a felony by another person.

H.R. 17 would provide that a person whose above rights are violated may bring a U.S. district court action against the United States or any state or any person for damages, injunctive relief and such other relief as the court deems appropriate.



POINT BLANK

"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."

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GUN GRABBERS BARE FANGS OVER GUNS IN PARKS ISSUE

For some time, CCRKBA worked with officials in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to change its rules and regulations preventing law-abiding citizens from carrying firearms on national parks and refuges so that such carrying is allowed.

Among those opposing the changes has been the anti-gun Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

After DOI late last year through the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service announced its rule changes to restore the rights of law-abiding firearm owners who wish to transport and carry guns for lawful purposes on most DOI lands, the Brady Campaign seems to have had conniptions. The Brady gang is working to see the new rule is blocked.

The problem for gun owners is that with the new anti-gun Obama Administration in office, Brady and its allies now have a lot of friends in high places in Washington, D.C. It was difficult for CCRKBA to work effectively to secure the gun owner friendly rule changes in the first place. It will be even harder now to keep them. CCRKBA needs as much support as you can provide during these times of difficulty.

Marsha McCartney, President of the North Texas Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said that the recent DOI rule change "is one more thing the Obama Administration will have to clear up."

The recently announced DOI rule change makes the federal law consistent with the state law in which the

public lands are located. The new regulations are meant to allow right-to-carry permit holders to exercise their right to keep and bear arms on national park and wildlife refuges in those states that recognize such permits.

On the day before New Year's Eve, the Brady Campaign filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia asking the court to strike down the rule change. It sought an injunction to block the new rule, slated to take effect in January.

Regardless of the court's reaction to the suit, the Brady Campaign was expected to push for a change in the new rule, even if it would take the Obama Administration effort months or years to restart the lengthy rule-making process.

In an irate statement, Paul Helmke, National President of the Brady Campaign, said that, "The Bush Administration's last-minute gift to the gun lobby, allowing concealed semiautomatic weapons in national parks, jeopardizes the safety of park visitors in violation of federal law. We should not be making it easier for dangerous people to carry firearms in our parks."

While Helmke inferred that the DOI change was a "last minute" action by the Bush Administration, the fact of the matter is that gun rights activists and organizations years ago began working publicly for the change. It takes a long time to bring about a change of this nature. It's definitely not a "last minute" matter.

The Brady Center charges that "the Interior Department violated several federal laws in its rush to

implement the rule before President Bush leaves office, including failing to conduct any environmental review of the harm that the rule will cause, as is required by the National Environmental Policy Act."

"What?" asked Philip Van Cleave, a former CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month and President of the Virginia Citizens Defense League. "How does anyone carrying a concealed handgun, but not shooting it, have any impact on the environment, one way or the other? DOI did look at whether an environmental review was needed and decided, correctly, that there was no environmental impact to look at."

The recently promulgated DOI rule, states the Brady Campaign, "will allow guns in rural and urban park areas around the country, from Wyoming's Yellowstone and California's Yosemite to Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park, home of the Liberty Bell. The suit was filed on behalf of the Brady Campaign and its members, including school teachers in the New York and Washington, D.C. areas who are canceling or curtailing school trips to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty and the National Mall in Washington, D.C. now that the Bush Administration will be allowing guns in these national park areas."

"This," writes Van Cleave, "is the same kind of fear mongering they have repeatedly used to fight efforts to liberalize state concealed carry laws. They would claim there'd be blood in the streets if concealed carry passed. It didn't happen, but that hasn't stopped them from using the same old fear mongering."

CCRKBA HITS ANTI-AMMO BILLS IN VARIOUS STATES

Gun control fanatics, frustrated in their attempts to impose severely restrictive regulations on the gun rights of law-abiding American citizens, apparently think that if they push severe restrictions on ammunition acquisition and possession, they'll come closer to their objective of restricting if not eliminating the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.

CCRKBA opposes this backdoor approach to gun control. Gun grabbers are basing a program on this approach and promoting it in state legislatures across the country.

An ammo control group, Ammunition Accountability, calls itself "a newly forming group of ammunition coding supporters. Our group includes gun crime victims, industry representatives, law enforcement, public officials, public policy experts, and more. We are working together to pass legislation to make ammunition coding technology a reality."

What these people want to do, essentially, is develop a registration number for every single piece of ammunition and then base legislation on that inanity. It's basically an underhanded attempt to ban regularly used ammunition. This is because the enormous costs of tooling up to manufacture such ammunition basically would make it impractical for ammunition manufacturers to comply with the envisioned law, meaning they will have to stop selling ammunition in the respective states.

Ammunition Accountability indicates that "ammunition technology works by laser etching the back of each bullet with an alpha-numeric serial number. Then when a potential

criminal purchases a box of 9mm cartridges, the box of ammunition and the bullets' coding numbers would be connected to the purchaser in a statewide database. When a bullet is found at a crime scene, the code on the bullet can be read with a simple magnifying glass and then be run through a statewide database to determine who purchased the ammunition and where, providing a valuable investigative lead."

Ammunition Accountability has developed sample legislation to achieve its purposes and reports that versions of it have been introduced in the legislatures of Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington.

The sample legislation states that, "each year in the United States, more than 30 percent of all homicides that involve a gun go unsolved; handgun ammunition accounts for 80 percent of all ammunition sold in the United States; current technology for matching a bullet used in a crime to the gun that fired it has worked moderately well for years, but presupposes that the weapon was recovered by law enforcement;" and "bullet coding is a new and effective way for law enforcement to quickly identify persons of interest in gun crime investigations."

It would provide that, after a specific date, all handgun and "assault weapon" ammunition manufactured or sold in the state shall be coded by the manufacturer, and would include a list of all calibers covered by the coding requirement. It would mandate the disposal by a certain date of all non-coded ammunition listed, whether

owned by private citizens or retail outlets.

It would provide that a state agency establish and maintain an ammunition coding database. It would require that manufacturers register with the state and maintain records on the business premises for a period of seven years concerning all sales, loans and transfers of ammunition, to, from, or within the state.

Vendors would have to register with the state and record the date of the transaction; the name of the transferee; the purchaser's driver's license number or other government issued identification number; the date of birth of the purchaser; the unique identifier of all handgun ammunition or bullets transferred; and all other information prescribed by the state.

The sample legislation would provide that any vendor that willfully fails to comply with, or falsifies the records required to be kept by the legislation is guilty of a public offense punishable by imprisonment not to exceed one year, and a fine of \$1,000.

It would provide for any manufacturer that fails to comply a civil fine of not more than \$1,000 for a first violation, not more than \$5,000 for a second violation, and not more than \$10,000 for a third and subsequent violations.

The sample would provide that any person who willfully destroys, obliterates or otherwise renders unreadable, the serialization required pursuant to the bill, on any bullet or assembled ammunition is punishable by imprisonment not to exceed one year, and a fine of \$1,000.

GUN SALES STILL ON THE INCREASE

"Even without his trillion dollar bailout," wrote Patrick Peterson in Florida Today, President Barack Obama "has already helped one segment of the economy: gun sales."

Indeed, reports keep coming in from around the country that, despite the downturn in the economy, the demand for firearms and ammunition by law-abiding American citizens has been on the increase since last year and continues to be on the increase. Sales continue on the upswing.

Early last month, in fact, BATFE sent out a notice to all federal firearms licensees regarding a shortage of ATF Form 4473.

"As a result of an unprecedented increase in demand for ATF Forms 4473 (5300.9) Part I Revised August

2008," read the notice, "inventory of the form at the ATF Distribution Center is running low. As a temporary measure, ATF is allowing FFLs to photocopy the form 4473 in its entirety until they receive their orders from the ATF Distribution Center. A notice will be posted at the expiration of this temporary authorized change."

Melissa M. Scallan wrote in the *Hattiesburg American* that, "The Saturday after Barack Obama was elected president, people jammed Cook's Gun Shop in Biloxi, eager to purchase the guns they believe may be off limits next year."

Scallan wrote in December that, "Gunshop owners throughout South Mississippi are reporting similar trends, which also are reflected across the country.

"The FBI reported earlier this month that in November it completed more than 1.5 million background checks, a 41.6 percent increase over November 2007 when the agency performed just over one million checks."

"When Bill Clinton was president he signed a 10-year ban on assault weapons in 1994, but when it expired, President Bush did not reactivate it," continued Scallan. "Many gun owners are afraid that ban will be put into effect again once Obama takes office."

"Kevin Riley, owner of Dad's Super Pawn in Gulfport, Mississippi, said gun sales began picking up about a month before the election. He said ammunition sales also have increased."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Change was promised during the 2008 elections, and change we will receive. A new administration will take over the White House, one that the record shows is hostile to the rights of gun owners. Change is taking place on Capitol Hill, as well, as a strengthened Democrat majority adopts new rules overturning the reforms put in place by then-Speaker of the House Gingrich in 1995. Under the "leadership" of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, reforms such as term limits on committee chairmanships and protection of the rights of minority party members are history. Pelosi, and Senate Majority leader Harry Reid have assumed rigid and extremely partisan control of both chambers. <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Now is the time to write to your elected officials, your two Senators and your Representative, and tell them that the Constitutionally-affirmed and Supreme Court-reinforced right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment is at or near the top of your list of concerns. Ask them to keep you informed of any legislation affecting the firearms issue, pro or con. No matter what their position on the gun issue, they have a responsibility to keep their constituents informed on issues of interest. When you receive communications informing you of firearm-related bills, write back and tell them your position on each of these.

You can find your elected officials in the blue "U.S. Government" pages of your telephone directory, or you can e-mail them on line. Links to each Senator's or Representative's office may be found in the left margin of the CCRKBA web site at <http://www.ccrkba.org>. Direct links are available at http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm and <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

CCRKBA NAMES TROUPE THE CCRKBA DEFENDER

St. Louis, Missouri Alderman Charles Quincy Troupe has been named CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for February.

"Alderman Troupe has called upon citizens to arm themselves to protect their lives and property from violent, predatory criminals," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. "For stating this in the face of an anti-gun political establishment and for the support his statement provides generally for gun rights, we think he truly deserves this Award. Joe Waldron, former CCRKBA Executive Director, and now CCRKBA Legislative Director, nominated Alderman Troupe for this distinction."

Alderman Troupe's action comes in the midst of the ongoing controversy over gun rights.

For quite some time now, gun rights activists and other supporters of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms have been engaged with gun control advocates and firearm prohibitionists on a number of fronts.

One of the most significant of these areas of conflict revolves around the question of whether or not in this day and age the private possession of firearms, especially handguns, is necessary.

Many gun grabbers maintain that, while firearms historically may have served a useful purpose, that historic time is long since past. Guns, and the private possession of firearms, they say, no longer serve a useful purpose, and their private possession ought to be severely restricted or outright prohibited.

We gun rights activists, on the other hand, reject that view as er-

roneous, if not downright ridiculous, and point out that the individual right to keep and bear arms is as necessary today as it ever was.

We know that only armed citizens can protect themselves and other citizens from perpetrators of criminal violence, especially violence from armed criminals.

We know that, in order for innocent individuals and civil society to be protected from those who prey upon the innocent, law-abiding citizens must be free to arm themselves. It's really a matter of common sense, although a number of academic studies, such as those by John R. Lott, Jr., outlined in *More Guns Less Crime*, demonstrate statistically that this is true.

Alderman Troupe, 72, certainly seems to agree. He said he was frustrated with the police response to rising crime when he called upon residents early in December to arm themselves to protect their lives and property.

Alderman Troupe said police are ineffective, outnumbered or don't care about the increase in crime in his north St. Louis ward, according to the Associated Press. AP reports St. Louis had 157 homicides in 2008, as of the time of Alderman Troupe's statement. That was 33 more than in 2007 as of the same time of the year.

"The community has to be ready to defend itself, because it's clear the economy is going to get worse, and criminals are getting more bold," Troupe said.

Troupe said that when he and residents approached a district police commander in 2007, they were told "there was nothing he could do protect us and the community...that he didn't have the manpower."

For 24 years, Troupe was a state legislator from the city of St. Louis, serving in the General Assembly. He was forced out of his seat by a terms limitation provision in state law. While a state representative, Troupe was a member of the Health Facilities Review Committee, Certificate of Need, in the House of Representatives. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

Troupe, an African American, says he made a point of fighting against discrimination against rural and urban poor of any race, reports the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*.

Troupe is Vice President of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 788.

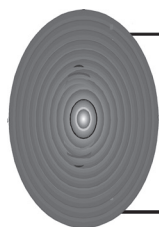
Troupe's call for citizens to arm themselves for self-protection, even agreeing to the advisability of obtaining permits to carry, is engendering some opposition from gun control advocates who point out that Troupe has filed for reelection.

Troupe, however, says he's been running for office for 30 years now, and his pro-right to self-defense opinions, now getting national attention, are opinions he's expressed publicly for years.

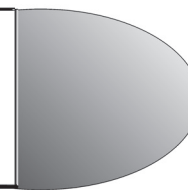
While leading a KSDK news crew on a tour of his ward recently, Troupe said he's fed up with crime in the north St. Louis neighborhoods he represents.

He says the issue is one of self-preservation.

"I don't think more guns are going to make north St. Louis any more dangerous," says Troupe. "I think if the citizens are armed it's going to make north St. Louis more dangerous for the criminal element."



QUICK SHOTS



In Chicago, U.S. District Judge Milton Shadur rejected a pro-gun rights challenge to anti-gun ordinances there and in Oak Park, Illinois. The gun-rights challenge maintained that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the D.C. handgun ban violated the Second Amendment should apply to the Chicago and Oak Park ordinances. Judge Shadur said the Supreme Court decision did not give him the authority to take such action. Shadur's decision was appealed. Attorney Stephen Halbrook said he thought the gun rights argument will prevail in a higher court. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley maintains that the ruling striking down the law in Washington, D.C., a federal city, cannot be extended to states and cities not under federal control. While defending the Windy City's handgun ban, Daley admitted he was looking at less restrictive measures. He said he's looking at new D.C. laws requiring gun owners to go through five hours of safety training, register their firearms every three years, and undergo background checks every three years.



Two-thirds of the participants in a TCPalm.com internet poll say teachers should be allowed to carry guns to school and one-third think they should not. The publication covers Florida's Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. Columnist Geoff Oldfather writes that, "We don't like the idea of guns on an airliner but today's reality means pilots are packing heat. So, teachers should be allowed to have

firearms even at school. I'll take it further: Considering how vulnerable our campuses and students are, if teachers are trained and have concealed weapons permits that require background checks and training, they should be allowed to carry them wherever they go."



"South Bend woman, 70, halts break-in suspect at gunpoint," reports WSBT TV from South Bend, Indiana. "Police say Cyrus Brown, 28, of South Bend was involved in a crash," indicates WSBT. "Officers later found Brown being held at gunpoint by an elderly woman in her home, which he allegedly broke into. An elderly woman held a suspect at gunpoint Sunday night until police arrived, after the man broke into her home. St. Joseph County emergency dispatch said they were called to the home after the woman confronted the intruder. Arriving officers found a screen removed and window broken at the home, where the woman was in the kitchen, still holding Brown at gunpoint, Sgt. Bill Redman of the St. Joseph County Police said. Brown was involved in a crash. After hitting a utility pole, the man fled on foot. He then broke into the nearby home—which turned out to be a big mistake."



"A federal appeals court panel has ruled that a defamation case brought by gun store owners against New York Mayor Michael

R. Bloomberg should proceed in Georgia's Cobb County Superior Court, not federal court, reports *Legaltech*. "Finding that the federal courts don't have jurisdiction over the matter, the December ruling by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the lawsuit be sent back to Marietta, where it was filed originally. Jasper lawyer Edwin D. Marger, who represents the gun store and its owners, said his clients 'absolutely' have a better chance of prevailing on their defamation suit in Cobb County than they would have had in federal court. Marger said his client Jay Wallace is a well-liked fixture in Cobb County." At the heart of the claim is a 2006 news conference in which Bloomberg announced that New York City was filing suit in federal court against 26 gun dealers, including Wallace's store, Adventure Outdoors, to force them to comply with the city's interpretation of gun laws.



A new proposal by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission could allow for gun stores in every quadrant of the Nation's Capital, reports WTOP radio. The commission has adopted temporary emergency rules that would allow gun shops to open in some industrial areas, throughout downtown Washington, D.C. and in neighborhoods that aren't zoned for neighborhood retail. The stores would have to be at least 300 feet from a library, school, church, home or playground.



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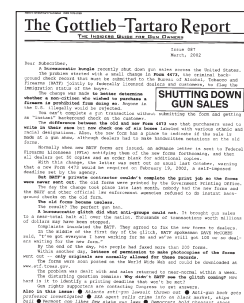
The Journal of Firearms and Public Policy:

At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Edited by David B. Kopel – Research Director at the Independence Institute and renowned gun-rights scholar – and contributors include Randy E. Barnett, Glenn Harlan Reynolds, John R. Lott, Joseph P. Tartaro, Gary Kleck, and others.

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:

Here's a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – and Joseph P. Tartaro – editor of Gun Week and president of the Second Amendment Foundation. This monthly newsletter is full of inside gun rights news straight from the desks of the experts. Not available on newsstands. Regular subscription \$60 per year.

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