

POINT BLANK

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



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CCRKBA HITS HOUSE GUN CONTROL BILLS

CCRKBA attacked proposals in the U.S. House of Representatives as back door attempts to undermine the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

The proponents of the measures tried to use a deranged killer's murder of six people and wounding of 13 others, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (AZ), as an excuse for demanding federal legislation.

Public opinion surveys, such as those conducted by Gallup and Rasmussen, demonstrated, though, that general support for gun control is decreasing.

That didn't prevent Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY) from proposing that ammunition feeding devices of more than 10 rounds be prohibited from transfer or importation. It would resurrect the Clinton era ban which later expired and make it permanent. Short-titled the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act, the bill, H.R. 308, with 47 original cosponsors, was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Although Congresswoman McCarthy and a number of supporters tried to deny the proposal is a gun control bill, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated, "Since McCarthy came on the political and legislative scene, her hallmark issue has been gun control. By trying to tell law-abiding people how many cartridges they can feed into their firearms at any one time, she in effect is trying to transfer a right of an individual into a power of government. She is bad news and so is her bill. CCRKBA opposes it and asks CCRKBA Members and Supporters to urge their own U.S. Representatives to do the same."

Snyder said also that CCRKBA opposes a move by Rep. Pete King (NY), which he is expected to offer as legislation, to prohibit law-abiding American citizens from carrying guns within 1,000 feet of members of Congress.

"What right does King have to order law-abiding American citizens around like that," asked Snyder.

"Besides, as More Guns Less Crime author John R. Lott, Jr. has demonstrated, so-called gun-free zones are not free of violent perpetrators and may in fact attract them."

"Multiple-victim public shootings keep on occurring in places where guns are banned," Lott wrote.

"Most people understand that guns deter criminals," he stated. "The problem is that instead of gun-free zones making for potential victims, they make it safe for criminals.

"Criminals are less likely to run into those who might be able to stop them. Everyone wants to keep guns away from criminals, but the problem is who is more likely to obey the law."

OPINION POLLS SHOW GUN OWNER SUPPORT

Major recent public opinion surveys show public support for the rights of law-abiding firearms ownership.

This is true in spite of the attempts by main stream media personalities, spokesmen for anti-gun organizations, and gun-grabber politicians to manipulate reaction to a madman's murderous shooting of people outside a Tucson, Arizona Safeway last month into support for additional restrictive gun control legislation.

It must be driving them batty.

The fact, though, is that there is "little support for gun control," as the publication Politico announced.

"Most Americans have not changed their views on gun control following the shooting nine days ago in Tucson, according to a CNN/Opinion Research poll," reported Andy Barr.

"Sixty-nine percent of those polled said the shooting that left six dead and injured 13, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ), has not changed their opinion on gun control," he continued. "Twenty-eight percent said the shooting has made them 'more likely' to support stricter controls on the sale of firearms, while three percent were 'less likely.'"

The Pew Research Center indicated there has been "no shift toward gun control after Tucson shootings" in a headline and that "most point to troubled individuals, not broader societal problems."

According to Pew, "in the wake of the Tucson shootings, there is no significant change in public views on the issue of gun control and gun rights. Currently, 49 percent of Americans say it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns, while 46 percent say it

is more important to control gun ownership. In September 2010, 50 percent prioritized gun control, 46 percent gun rights. In this regard, there is no sign that the longer trend toward an emphasis on gun owners' rights has abated."

Rasmussen Reports headlined an article with the statement, "most say stricter gun laws would not help prevent shootings."

According to the report, "most Americans say stronger gun laws are not the answer to the shootings last weekend of a U.S. congresswoman and the killing of six others.

"A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey, taken Monday and Tuesday nights, finds that only 29 percent of adults think stronger gun control laws would help prevent shootings like the one in Arizona last Saturday. Sixty-two percent disagree and say stronger gun control would not make a difference."

Rasmussen reported that, "Among those who have a gun in their household, 76 percent say stricter gun control laws would not help, a view shared by a plurality (48 percent) of those without a gun in the house.

"Despite Saturday's tragedy, opposition to gun control is at a new high. Thirty-six percent say the United States needs stricter gun control laws, but 56 percent don't share that belief and oppose stronger anti-gun laws. Previously, opposition to more gun control has ranged from a high of 51 percent in July of last year to a low of 37 percent in April 2007 following the killings at Virginia Tech."

The Gallup Poll reported its "trends on gun control show that Americans have grown less supportive of strengthening laws in the United

States over the last two decades, notwithstanding a number of tragic gun attacks during that period.

"The percentage in favor of making the laws governing the sale of firearms 'more strict' fell from 78 percent in 1990 to 62 percent in 1995, and 51 percent in 2007. In the most recent reading, Gallup in 2010 found 44 percent in favor of stricter laws. In fact, in 2009 and again last year, the slight majority said gun laws should either remain the same or be made less strict."



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA SEEKS BATFE CONGRESSIONAL PROBE

CCRKBA is asking the U.S. House of Representatives to investigate the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) of the Department of Justice.

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, made the request in letters to Speaker of the House John Boehner and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (TX).

Snyder wrote that, "on December 17, in contravention of its congressionally mandated lawful authority, BATFE requested the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to authorize it to require Federal Firearms Licensees to report to BATFE multiple sales or other dispositions of two or more semiautomatic rifles greater than .22 caliber that are capable of accepting a detachable magazine and are purchased by the same individual within five consecutive business days.

"BATFE is a creature of Congress. It should do what Congress tells it to do. It should not do what Congress does not tell it to do. It should not overstep the limits set on its activities. Congress can and should discipline BATFE for this and any other arrogation of authority."

Snyder said "one of the reasons individual freedom can shrink is that individuals do not remain alert to bureaucratic attempts to circumvent freedom and undermine it through the imposition of red tape requirements on the people, especially when the bureaucrats lack the legal authority to do so.

"Fortunately, there is a new majority in the United States House of Representatives. We hope this new majority will see fit to clamp

down on the anti-gun bureaucratic excesses of the BATFE. We encourage Point Blank readers to contact their own U.S. Representatives and urge them to take a good, thorough look at BATFE personnel and activities individually and through committee and pave the way for an ongoing investigation of the agency."

In a corollary development last month, St. Louis Gun Rights Examiner Kurt Hofmann, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, reported that Congressman Darrell Issa (CA), as new Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, will be in a position to conduct an intensive probe of BATFE.

Hofmann thinks gun owners should point out to Rep. Issa accounts of "law-abiding gun owners facing prison sentences based on the BATFE's inaccurate records, the BATFE lying—under oath—about the accuracy of said records, the BATFE calling toys 'illegal guns,' based on some very shaky police work (to put it politely) – and then suddenly (and quietly) 'changing their minds,' the BATFE sending a man to federal prison because his rifle malfunctioned, a BATFE ruling that would seemingly transform millions of heretofore legal shotguns into illegal 'destructive devices,' the BATFE sending a threatening 'cease and desist' letter to a legal manufacturer of unregulated parts, a recent BATFE ambition to reclassify some ammunition as 'explosives,' allegations of gun trafficking to Mexico aided and abetted by the BATFE, in order to advance the 'new restrictions on Americans' gun rights needed to fight drug violence in Mexico'

theme – including the firearm used to kill Border Patrol officer Brian A. Terry, widespread, systematic problems with discriminatory hiring and promotion practices, and huge amounts of taxpayer money used to keep these problems hidden."

Also last month, in a Human Events article critical of President Barack Obama's selection of anti-gun elitist Andrew Traver as Director of BATFE, Susan Dale wrote that "Traver is perhaps best known for a rather dramatic on-air television appearance in which he was working to make a point involving the highly controversial 'assault weapons ban.' With the cameras rolling, Agent Traver handed the machine gun, which of course had nothing to do with the assault weapons question at the time, to a female NBC reporter, and told her to fire at certain targets. The obliging reporter, knowing a great broadcast possibility when she saw it, indeed fired away, incidentally missing everything at which she fired. Sure enough, this broadcast made the national news, again, and again."

Dale stated BATFE "still suffers from its somewhat step childish past, as it has stumbled rather badly in certain high profile cases, among them the confrontation at Ruby Ridge, and the Branch Davidian compound, both of which have since been referred to as 'massacres.'"

She noted that as BATFE "struggles not only to satisfactorily redefine its mission, but also to restore the morale necessary to make the agency an effective force in fighting terrorism, perhaps the worst thing that could befall the agency would be to have it become the foil of a political agenda."

CCRKBA NOTES GUNS WANTED BY ALL AGES

"People of all ages, from young to middle-aged to senior status, need and want guns to be able to defend themselves, their loved ones and their property should the need arise," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said last month in Washington, D.C.

"There is a lot of evidence of this," he continued. "A few years ago, for instance, following the Virginia Tech massacre, many Americans began to realize that qualified individuals of college age who have state-issued permits to carry concealed handguns should in fact be allowed to carry them on campus and should not be prevented from so doing by college and university policies contrary to such carrying.

"The movement for such campus carry has been gathering momentum. Just last month, for instance, some indication of this came as news from Little Rock, Arkansas."

There, Arkansas Carry said the Arkansas Department of Higher Education has been misinterpreting state law, and that those with CCW licenses should be able to have their guns on college campuses, according to *Ozarks First*.

Steve Jones, the group's chairman, said the group has delivered a letter to the state agency, citing a 2003 Attorney General's opinion stating guns are permissible on campus.

Higher Ed director Jim Purcell said the same opinion indicated colleges have the right to prohibit all guns as long as they post signs stating that's the case.

Jones said Arkansas Carry will push

for an open carry law in the current legislative session, and hopes lawmakers will address the issue of gun bans on campuses as well.

At another part of the age spectrum, in Delaware, an 82-year-old man held alleged thieves at gunpoint.

Joe Harper, a retired high school math teacher and business owner afflicted with leukemia, said he isn't a hero for doing so, reported *Delaware on Line*.

"But people keep telling me I am," he said. "They keep shaking my hand telling me I'm a hero, honking and waving."

In December, 2010, Harper shot out a tire on a pickup truck loaded with material allegedly stolen at his house off Chapman Road near Christiana and held two men at gunpoint until police arrived.

New Castle County police reportedly took William G. Rafter, 41, of Clayton, Delaware, and Mark Sturgill, 30, of Bridgeton, New Jersey, into custody. They were charged with felony theft and conspiracy by state police, who said the suspects stole a generator and metal items from the yard and put them in a truck at a location behind the house.

"I'd do it again," said Harper, "but not first thing in the morning."

Harper said he was just getting up December 10 at another house he owns a few miles away in Ogletown, Delaware, when his son David, 53, called from work in Dover, Delaware. His son said a friend who works near the Chapman Road house called him saying thieves were robbing the place.

Harper, an Army veteran who

served as a combat engineer and instructor, grabbed his gun before going over. "It's a .22 Magnum, a target pistol worth about \$250, \$200," he said.

Minutes later, Harper said, he saw his stolen things in the truck and two men getting into it. "They parked at the apartments because the drive to my house was cabled," he said.

Walking to the men, gun in hand, Harper said, he yelled, "I'm an excellent shot and can shoot out your eyes at 60 paces." He fired once at the driver's side front tire and stopped about six feet in front of the truck.

"I said, 'If it moves toward me, the driver gets one right between the eyes,'" he said. After that, he added, "they didn't give me much guff."

Harper was not charged in the incident. However, he said he wasn't happy to be frisked, have his gun and pocketknife seized and spend more than an hour in the back of a police car.

His son got back the knife. "But I'm still waiting for my gun," Harper said. "They say it's evidence."

Harper said he took his gun and used it due to his frustration as a repeat crime victim.

Police confirm a burglary at the Chapman Road house in October, 2010. Harper recalls finding his belongings piled in the yard. "They even had my toaster oven, my microwave and some new screen doors I had," he said. "The police helped me carry everything back into the house, but they never made an arrest..."

"I'm fed up with all this thieving."

CCRKBA HITS ARIZONA SHOOTING EXPLOITATION

CCRKBA condemned last month's attempted assassination of Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the murder of six people including a federal judge and a nine-year-old child, for which a 22-year-old Tucson man now faces charges.

"Our sincere sympathy and sorrow goes to the victims of this heinous crime, and their families, who are in our thoughts and prayers," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "This was a despicable act of cowardice, and we believe the full force of the law should be used against the individual responsible.

"We find it unconscionable that the gun prohibition lobby wasted no time at all in its attempt to exploit this hideous attack in an effort to further its political agenda. When will these people stop dancing in the blood of crime victims in an attempt to resuscitate their relevance?"

Gottlieb was especially critical of two different organizations that linked to an out-of-context remark made in 2009 by Wayne LaPierre of the National Rifle Association to this crime. He called it a "shameless demonstration of the depths to which the anti-gun-rights lobby will stoop in an attempt to discredit gun rights organizations.

"We notice," he said, "that little has been said about the courageous armed citizen, Joe Zamudio, who helped physically subdue the gunman. Despite Mr. Zamudio's disclosure during interviews with CNN and Fox News that he was armed, the press appears to be largely ignoring this detail.

Dave Workman, CCRKBA Communications Director, noted that Zamudio "told both networks that he did not draw and open fire out of concerns that he might add to the

panic, and apparently because he could see that Loughner's gun was empty. In such a case, he exercised very good judgment, as an innocent bystander may have been hit in the chaos. Zamudio is a hero."

Gottlieb said "the gun apparently used by the suspect, Jared Loughner, was traced quickly to a legal sale at a Tucson-area sporting goods store in November. The speed by which that firearm was traced belies claims that police agencies are hindered by current statute that prohibits political exploitation of firearm trace sales.

"A horrible crime has been committed, and our nation is stunned. But until this investigation is completed, it is disgusting that gun prohibitionists would rush to the nearest microphone, demanding that we need more laws, while trying to link firearms rights advocates to this tragedy."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Based on a US Department of Justice Inspector General recommendation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) has announced plans to require reporting by federally-licensed firearm dealers (FFLs) of multiple sales of certain long guns, much as current law requires reporting multiple sales of handguns. The long guns covered are semi-automatic rifles and shotguns with detachable box magazines, similar to but broader than those under the 1994 Clinton gun ban. The reporting requirement applies only to FFLs in the border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. For now.

This all goes back to the misinterpreted information from a US Government Accountability Office (GAO) report that allegedly claims "87% of guns traced by the Mexican government come from the US." It ignores the fact that this 87% figure represents a tiny fraction of the guns seized by the Mexican government, most of which come from other countries or from deserting Mexican military and police forces.

BATFE is using its regulatory authority to create this requirement. This is just another example of a federal agency expanding its authority without sanction by Congress. It's time to put our foot down and demand that BATFE retract the proposed regulatory requirement.

Please call, e-mail or write to your federal Senators and Representative and ask them to call a halt to this unjustified bureaucratic "mission creep." Direct contact may be made with legislative officials via the *Find your Representative/Senator* at the top of their web sites <http://senate.gov> and <http://house.gov>. Contact information for their home offices is also published in the "blue pages" of your local telephone directory.

MONTANA CONGRESSMAN CCRKBA DEFENDER

Congressman Denny Rehberg of Montana is the recipient of the CCRKBA February Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award.

In nominating Rep. Rehberg for the Award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said "this Congressman is taking a leading role in trying to prevent the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) from assuming power and using it to impose upon law-abiding firearm dealers unwarranted burdens in the operations of their businesses.

"The BATFE action is a bureaucratic attempt to undermine the Second Amendment by encumbering firearms dealers with more red tape. By fighting the BATFE on this, Congressman Rehberg is rendering a real service to law-abiding American gun owners. It means that he certainly deserves to be named CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month."

In December, 2010, the Second Amendment community was upset to learn that BATFE was moving to require federally licensed firearms retailers to report multiple sales of modern sporting rifles. BATFE wants to require that firearms retailers report multiple sales or other dispositions of two or more over .22 caliber semiautomatic rifles that are capable of accepting a detachable magazine and are purchased by the same individual within five consecutive business days.

Although a report in *The Washington Post* suggested that the mandate would be limited to retailers along the Southwest border, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) pointed out that BATFE's

Federal Register Notice did not limit the geographic scope of the reporting requirement.

In fact, the BATFE "emergency" mandate originally was published more than a year ago by the gun-grabbing Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) coalition under the control of anti-gun Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City. Although the newspaper reported that the Department of Justice "languished" over the plan for several months, it was hard to see from where the "emergency" came, as NSSF noted. It really looked like BATFE was taking orders from MAIG.

Congressman Rehberg stated that, "While we've managed to stop gun control efforts in Congress, the Obama administration wants to circumvent the legislative process altogether in order to force its anti-gun policies on the American people. Beyond the economic burden of more paperwork for gun dealers, this rule is predicated on the incorrect assumption that buying multiple guns is a questionable activity that warrants a red flag for government attention. This is the exact mindset that proponents of the Second Amendment feared when an anti-gun Chicago politician moved into the White House. I'll keep fighting to make sure the federal government respects all of our constitutional rights."

Rep. Rehberg organized a bipartisan statement with 33 congressional co-signers declaring that, "We cross a line when the federal government starts keeping tabs on citizens who are exercising their constitutional rights in a completely legal manner. This isn't about partisanship or politics – this is about standing up for liberty."

His office indicated that, "Unlike

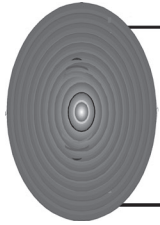
previous efforts to register firearm purchases, this emergency information request can be implemented without any congressional action whatsoever."

In a letter to President Barack Obama, Congressman Rehberg and the others noted that the BATFE "request asks the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve an information collection that would require federally licensed firearm dealers to report the sales of two or more semiautomatic rifles to the same customer within a five-day period... We are strongly opposed to this request by the ATF, and to any further efforts to regulate the sale of firearms through emergency notices and paperwork changes that have not been properly vetted by Congress or by the affected public.

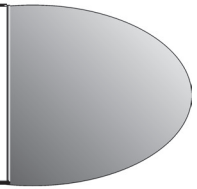
"Implementing the ATF's proposal would subject firearms dealers and their customers to new, onerous requirements that would inevitably track and catalogue the purchases of law-abiding gun owners. And while Congress has authorized multiple sales reporting for handguns, we have never extended this authority to other types of firearms.

"Expanding this power by executive decree would be an end run around Congress.

"Under current law, the ATF already has extensive powers to inspect the sales records of firearms dealers and investigate suspicious transactions. We encourage your administration to reconsider this ill-conceived change to the reporting requirements, and instead utilize the ATF's existing authority to ensure that firearms dealers are in compliance with the law."



QUICK SHOTS



In Amherst, New Hampshire, a freshman state legislator held an intruder at gunpoint at his home one night early last month. State Rep. Peter Hansen, 67, told police the intruder broke into his home, claiming he had been shot. When the man walked through the kitchen and lay down in the coatroom, Hansen retrieved his pistol and called the police, who arrived “within three to five minutes, I’d say – probably closer to three,” he recalled. Police charged the intruder with criminal mischief and trespassing after arresting him at Hansen’s home. Hansen said the sudden fame he got from reports of the incident is “a bit overwhelming. It was certainly not my intention to gain notoriety of any sort. But you have to do what you have to do.” Hansen said he and his wife were upstairs when the intruder entered the house through the cellar. The intruder “was not armed, but I did not know that. I felt I had to retrieve my personal protection device, a Kel-Tec .380 semiautomatic. I regret not having it as close as I should have. I should have had it with me. You hate to leave an intruder on the floor while you go to retrieve your piece, especially when there are relatives in the house.”



In Washington, D.C., the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) announced a ruling that will affect any person licensed as a dealer-gunsmith performing certain processing or finishing on firearms owned and

marked by a federally licensed firearms manufacturer. The ruling (ATF Rul. 2010-10) will also affect licensed manufacturers and licensed importers who have contracts with specialized gunsmiths to perform a variety of processes involved in producing firearms. The ruling holds that licensed firearms dealer-gunsmiths are not engaged in a manufacturing business, and are not required to hold a manufacturer’s license, under certain specified conditions. The ruling was issued to address modern firearms manufacturing processes, which often involve a number of contractors other than the manufacturer whose name is marked on the firearm.



In Baldwin Borough, Pennsylvania, police said a man in a wheelchair fatally shot a young person who fired shots from a rifle while trying to enter his apartment through a window. Channel 4 Action News early last month reported that the shooting happened at Rocco Bombara’s home early one Sunday morning. The alleged culprit fired a warning shot and told everyone in the apartment to get down, Baldwin Police Chief Michael Scott said. “A rifle barrel protruded through the venetian blind in the window,” Scott said. “A shot or two shots, we believe, were fired into the apartment.” Police said Bombara reached up and got a handgun from under his chair cushion. “As the intruder was climbing through the window, he fired – that resident fired a round – striking the

intruder. The intruder in turn returned fire, striking the resident,” Allegheny County police Lt. Andrew Schurman said. The 19-year-old intruder died at the scene, Scott said.



In North Palmview, Texas, sheriff’s deputies reportedly were searching for the suspects who tried to kidnap a man from his Hidalgo County home, according to KRGV TV. Authorities said three armed men entered the house and tried to kidnap the homeowner. The homeowner shot at the suspects, hitting one of them twice in the back. The kidnapers fled the scene and dropped off the injured suspect at the Mission Hospital.



In Switzerland, a nationwide vote scheduled for this month on a proposal aimed at limiting access to firearms drew opposition from most parties in parliament. Justice Minister Simonetta Sommaruga said the current gun law was sufficient to protect the population against misuse and that the initiative would be difficult to put into practice. Yvan Perrin, a parliamentarian for the Swiss People’s Party, argued that a proposed central database is a first step towards banning firearms altogether. He said that a ban on keeping army-issue guns in households would be tantamount to disarming soldiers and would undermine seriously mandatory shooting practice and traditional shooting competitions.

