

POINT BLANK

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



**February
2012
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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

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TWO IMPORTANT BILLS LINGER IN CONGRESS

Two important pieces of legislation are now lingering on Capitol Hill as gun owners wait for further action.

Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh's HR 3594, developed with the cooperation and assistance of CCRKBA staff, would block U.N. funding unless the President certifies that the world body "has not taken any action to restrict, attempt to restrict, or otherwise adversely infringe upon the rights of individuals...to keep and bear arms, or abridge any of the other constitutionally protected rights" of U.S. citizens."

The measure has picked up 29 co-sponsors, all Republicans, and now awaits action. Joining Walsh to sponsor the measure are Steve Austria (R-OH7), Joe Barton (R-TX6), Charles Boustany (R-LA7), Paul Broun (R-GA10), Dan Burton (R-IN5), Francisco Canseco (R-TX23), Howard Coble (R-NC6), Michael Conaway (R-TX11), Jeff Duncan (R-SC3), John Duncan (R-TN2), John Gingrey (R-GA11), Paul Gosar (R-AZ1), Tom Graves (R-GA9), Tim Huelskamp (R-KS1), Lynn Jenkins (R-KS2), Walter Jones (R-NC3), Steve King (R-IA5), John Kline (R-MN2), Blaine Luetkemey (R-MO9), Kenny Marchant (R-TX24), Tim Murphy (R-PA18), Richard Nugent (R-FL5), Alan Nunnelee (R-MS1), Bill Posey (R-FL15), Steve Stivers (R-OH15), Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA3), Rob Wittman (R-VA1) and Bill Young (R-FL10).

Walsh, who delivered the keynote speech at last September's Gun Rights Policy Conference in Chicago, is in his freshman term.

"The United Nations' effort to adopt a global gun control initiative needs to be reined in," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "For too many years, bureaucrats in the United Nations have become far too cozy with international gun prohibition organizations, and Congressman Walsh's legislation seems the best way to get their attention. We've been delighted and honored to be part of this effort."

Gottlieb called the U.N. efforts "an insult to United States sovereignty." He criticized the world forum for "entertaining such measures while enjoying this country's hospitality at its headquarters in New York City."

"It is the greatest irony, and perhaps the pinnacle of hypocrisy," Gottlieb observed, "for the United Nations to be discussing any treaty that might threaten our Second Amendment, because it has been the United States, with its citizen soldiers and our constitutional right to keep and bear arms that has come to the world's rescue not once, but twice in global conflicts."

Meanwhile, following its lopsided 272-154 passage by the House of Representatives, HR 822 – the National Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011 (now 2012) is idling in the Senate, where it has yet to be taken up for consideration.

Continued on page 4

CCRKBA LAUDS AZ LAWMAKERS FOR FAST & FURIOUS INVESTIGATION

Weary of stonewalling and the length of time it is taking Congress to investigate Operation Fast and Furious, Arizona legislators recently announced they are opening their own probe of the scandal that unfolded in their state.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms quickly applauded the move, noting that Arizona firearms retailers actually raised alarms early in the operation about people making multiple firearms purchases. However, those dealers were encouraged to complete the transactions and were assured by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that everything was under control.

As it turned out, that was far from the truth, some 2,000 firearms were allowed to "walk" into the illicit gun pipeline to Mexico. And what happened as a result of that cooperation? The Obama administration tried to blame gun dealers in Arizona and other Southwest states for the traffic in guns across the border.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb called the finger-pointing "disingenuous at best," and "an outrage at its worst."

According to the Associated Press and Fox News, Arizona State House Speaker Andy Tobin has appointed a special committee to investigate Fast and Furious to determine if any state

statutes were violated. The committee is chaired by Rep. David Burnell Smith (R-Carefree). He told reporters that the committee will call on gun dealers to testify about their role in the federal investigation.

Many believe dealers were pressured to cooperate with the BATF in its gun trafficking sting operation that ran from fall 2009 to December 2010. It was abruptly halted when Border Patrol agent Brian Terry was murdered and two guns linked directly to Fast and Furious were recovered at the crime scene. This launched a probe that has resulted in at least two Capitol Hill investigations and a third probe by the Justice Department's Inspector General.

CCRKBA was among the first to call on Attorney General Eric Holder to step down as a result of revelations that his department was deeply involved in the investigation, and apparently tried to cover it up.

"The ultimate responsibility for Fast and Furious lies with Holder," Gottlieb said. "Everyone directly involved in the scandal has been shuffled around to another position, including BATF administrators in Washington, D.C. That is simply not acceptable. There has been no discipline and no accountability, because the man who should be ultimately accountable is still running the Justice Department."

Dennis Burke, U.S. Attorney for Ari-

zona, abruptly resigned last August, and recently, Patrick Cunningham, chief of the criminal division for the Arizona U.S. Attorney's office, hired his own attorney and declined to testify before congressional investigators, exercising his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. It was the first time in the investigation that anyone had invoked the Fifth Amendment right.

When the committee's work is done, it will be reviewed by Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne.



POINT BLANK

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

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NEW TERM FOR ANTIS: GUN REFORMERS

They've promoted "sensible" and "common sense" gun bans, changed their agenda from "gun control" to "gun safety," and now the gun ban lobby has adopted a new alias: "Gun Reformer."

When *The Hill* recently wrote about anti-gun Mayors Michael Bloomberg of New York and Thomas Menino of Boston – founders of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns – in their effort to have President Obama exploit the attempted murder of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona, the newspaper referred to the two gun grabbers as "prominent gun reformers."

Their campaign to tighten up already-restrictive gun laws was dubbed a "gun-reform push."

CCRKBA Communications Director

Dave Workman noted that in the lexicon of extremist gun banners, "It doesn't matter what they call themselves, they still want to take your firearms and your gun rights."

"Gun Reformer" appears to be the next semantics twist from a lobby that seemed content for the past 15 years to call themselves "gun safety advocates" after discovering early in the Clinton era that "gun control" had become politically toxic. Henceforth, following the disastrous mid-term election in 1994 when more than 50 pro-gun control Democrats were thrown out of office and Republicans took control of Capitol Hill for the first time in decades, every bit of anti-Second Amendment legislation became a "gun safety" measure.

Restrictive gun control proposals

became "common sense" bills, and gun bans like those defeated in Washington, D.C. and Chicago were "reasonable" and "moderate."

Given the new nickname, one is left to ponder what it is these people want to reform.

There are currently several federal lawsuits seeking to reform arbitrary discretionary-issue concealed carry permit laws; perhaps that's what they are talking about. There is an on-going legislative effort in Illinois to reform that state's firearm statutes to allow concealed carry, bringing the Prairie State into conformity with surrounding states, all of which have concealed carry laws. However, CCRKBA notes that the people behind these efforts already have an identity with which they are content: American citizens.

CCRKBA'S GOTTLIEB BLASTS BLOOMBERG SLANDER

When New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg talked about the case of a Tennessee citizen who was arrested in December for declaring her pistol at the Ground Zero memorial, he asserted that she also had a bag of cocaine in her pocket.

The allegation was false, and days later Bloomberg admitted that authorities did not know what the white powder was, yet he never apologized for the slanderous remark.

The case involved fourth-year medical student Meredith Graves, who was in New York to interview for a job. Legally licensed to carry in her home state, Graves and her husband stopped at the memorial and when she spotted a sign that indicated no firearms were allowed, she asked a security guard where she could store her pistol.

She was promptly arrested for illegally carrying an unlicensed gun (in New York) and her story raced across the newswires and Internet.

The powder Graves was carrying turned out to be crushed aspirin, but that did not stop Bloomberg from accusing her of something worse. His remark during a press conference: "Let's assume that she didn't get arrested for carrying a gun. She probably would have gotten arrested for the cocaine that was in her pocket."

Several days later, during another press appearance, Bloomberg admitted, "We just couldn't identify it."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb challenged the billionaire mayor on his remarks.

"What is the difference between a New York street thug stealing a lady's purse," he asked, "and Bloom-

berg, who publicly stole Ms. Graves' reputation?"

Graves was not alone in violation of the city's restrictive gun laws. Over the past few months, at least four cases of people being arrested with firearms have made headlines. Travelers have been landing in legal hot water for several years in New York, especially if they try to check firearms in their luggage at the airports. When they declare firearms, as required by federal law, ticket agents immediately notify Port Authority police, who make the arrest.

Following Graves' arrest, one member of the city council was quoted in a New York City newspaper suggesting that the city's gun laws are too strict, and high-profile enforcement cases do the city's gun control efforts no good.

CCRKBA REBUTS BOYCOTT OF BUSINESS THAT SERVES GUN OWNERS

An anti-gun network claiming millions of members who are victims of firearms related crimes has announced a boycott of a popular chain of coffee shops because the stores cater to legally-armed citizens.

The effort, kicking off on St. Valentine's Day, targets Starbucks stores because they refuse to discriminate against law-abiding armed citizens. Elliot Fineman, head of the National Gun Victim's Action Council announced the campaign of social bigotry, asserting that "Open and concealed carry are among the reasons there are 12,000 gun homicides each year in the U.S."

Countering this claim is the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, which launched a rolling billboard campaign last year

to educate the public that guns save lives every day. The billboard message is also printed on CCRKBA bumper stickers that declare "2,191 Americans use guns in Self-Defense every day – Guns Save Lives."

That campaign was in response to anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's own fruitless campaign of fear against firearms that visited several major cities in 2011, with the CCRKBA billboard hot on its heels.

However, CCRKBA's educational effort can apply equally well to the Fineman group's boycott and its attempt to browbeat the coffee giant.

In his press release, Fineman bemoans the fact that "Starbucks has the legal right to ban guns."

"Starbucks also has the legal right," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb,

"to serve any customer it chooses, free from political pressure. No company, big or small, should be forced to act as a surrogate for social bigotry, which is precisely what Fineman and his cronies are attempting to accomplish."

By no small irony, almost two years ago, the Brady Campaign, aided by regional groups like Washington CeaseFire, tried the same tactic. In the months following their attempted boycott, Starbucks profits actually soared. This suggests to CCRKBA that people are not as paranoid as anti-gunners want them to be.

Gun rights activists were quick to react, promising to increase their patronage. Starbucks is headquartered in Seattle, Washington.

TWO CRITICAL BILLS

(continued from page 1)

Gottlieb said it is hard to predict how the bill will fare in Congress' upper chamber, but the overwhelming "Yes" vote in the House should send a message that it is time for all citizens to enjoy their self-defense right throughout the nation.

"You simply do not leave your civil rights at the border of one state when you cross into a neighboring state," he noted.

Looking back over the past couple of months, Gottlieb pointed to reports of at least three armed citizens being arrested and charged with felony crimes in the City of New York because they had personal pistols that they are legally licensed to carry in other states.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *McDonald v. City of Chicago* that the Second Amendment applies

to all citizens everywhere, that should have sent a message to state and local governments that they can no longer adopt or enforce laws that penalize citizens for exercising a fundamental civil right, he observed.

The debate over H.R. 822 in the House offered a clear picture about who supports and who opposes the self-defense rights of American citizens. Gottlieb said it was "remarkable" that so many states' rights proponents suddenly came out of the woodwork to oppose the measure on the argument that it somehow violates the rights of states to set their own gun regulations.

"That's not true, and they know it," Gottlieb said. "If this measure passes and becomes law, legally-armed citizens will still have to follow all the laws of every state they visit. That includes obeying all statutes and

ordinances regarding the carrying of firearms, and where that may be prohibited by local regulations. Opponents of this legislation would have the public believe that act as if their own state laws apply in another jurisdiction, and that is simply not the case."

As in the House vote, Gottlieb said now is the time for gun owners to pay close attention to how their senators react toward this legislation.

"They can give all the lip service they want to the Second Amendment," he commented, "but the real test will be whether they support bringing the measure up for debate and a vote, or simply allow HR 822 to gather dust in some corner of the Senate."

NEW CDC DATA REFUTES ANTI-GUN MYTH

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released preliminary data on the leading causes of death, and homicide was not listed in the Top 15, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms quickly noted that this refutes one of the greatest anti-gun myths.

The data came from 2010, a year during which gun sales were very brisk, and increasing numbers of Americans obtained concealed carry permits and licenses. All that was not lost on CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, who said the data shows that the gun ban lobby has been wrong by insisting that more guns in private hands would translate to more mayhem and murder.

"Gun control extremists will have a hard time explaining how, after years of repeated predictions and

warnings that more guns in private hands will result in more mayhem, that homicides are no longer among the top causes of death in the United States," Gottlieb observed. "I wonder how they will try to spin this report."

The 68-page document noted that the Top 15 causes of death in this country during 2010 were:

1. Heart disease, 2. Cancer, 3. Chronic lower respiratory diseases, 4. Stroke/disease of blood vessels in the brain, 5. Accidents, 6. Alzheimer's disease, 7. Diabetes, 8. Kidney disease, 9. Flu and pneumonia, 10. Suicide, 11. Septicemia (blood infections), 12. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, 13. High blood pressure, 4. Parkinson's disease, 15. Pneumonitis

Gottlieb noted that the release of this data correlates with declining violent crime statistics over the past few years, while Americans were

buying more firearms and ammunition.

"Gun banners can't have it both ways," Gottlieb explained. "If the data had shown murders on the increase, you can bet your life savings that they would be screaming 'We told you so!' on every front page in America."

He said there is no small amount of irony in the CDC revelation. Anti-gun-rights extremists, he noted, have frequently exploited CDC data to support their arguments for more gun control. Homicide has not been high on the list of causes of death since the 2001 terrorist attack, but the fact that it did not make the Top 15 when so many people were buying firearms is significant.

"This is pretty strong evidence that rising gun ownership does not translate to more violence and murder," Gottlieb stated.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Your help is required to help move two critical pieces of legislation forward in Congress.

As the Supreme Court ruled in *McDonald v City of Chicago*, your Second Amendment rights do not stop at a state border. Three months ago the House of Representatives passed H.R. 822, a bill that would require states to recognize the concealed carry licenses from all other states. Since then the bill has languished in the Senate Judiciary Committee. We need you to write to your two U.S. Senators and ask that they put pressure on Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Judiciary Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) to schedule a hearing on the bill and move it out. The Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee is Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), a strong proponent of the Second Amendment.

Illinois Republican Representative Joe Walsh also needs help in building support for H.R. 3594, the bill that reaffirms the sovereignty of the U.S. Constitution over international treaties inconsistent with the Constitution and that prohibits U.S. funding of the United Nations should that body take action to limit the Constitutional rights of U.S. citizens. This bill is critical in blocking U.N. action on a comprehensive and intrusive Arms Trade Treaty.

H.R. 822 passed out of the House only after more than 240 Representatives signed on as co-sponsors of the bill. H.R. 3594 currently has 29 co-sponsors. We need to push that number of co-sponsors up to well over the 218 needed to pass the bill out of the House.

Contact information for both your Representative and Senators can be found on the CCRKBA web site (<http://www.ccrkba.org>) at the left margin under "Congressional Information."

CCRKBA NAMES SIGALE THE GUN RIGHTS DEFENDER

David G. Sigale of Glen Ellyn, Illinois is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for February, 2012.

"David Sigale is a skilled Second Amendment advocate," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "His dedication to our right to keep and bear arms civil rights, and his passion for justice are exceptional," he continued.

The Second Amendment Foundation recently awarded David its 2011 Bill of Rights award, and he was selected for the Illinois Super Lawyer list for 2012, which rates him among the top 5% of Illinois attorneys.

His B.A is from Indiana University – Bloomington and J.D is from Georgetown University Law Center. Sigale was co-counsel in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, where he worked with Alan Gura in overturning Chicago's long-standing handgun ban before the United States Supreme Court.

"Every litigation attorney dreams of the Supreme Court, much like an athlete dreams of the World Series or Super Bowl," David said. "I was extremely fortunate, not only in appearing before the Court with someone who is both a brilliant attorney and good friend, but also to help make a difference on something I strongly believe in," he continued.

While growing up outside Chicago, news stories of violence were common. "When offered the opportunity to do something about the problem, if I could help would-be victims of domestic violence or home invasions protect their lives and their families, and help avert

potential tragedies, I jumped at it," David explained.

A double major in psychology and criminal justice at Indiana, Sigale studied not only about the bad things people do, but also why. David opined, "The City of Chicago focuses not on the real problem, which is catching criminals and stopping crime, and focuses instead on a political placebo, as if disarming law-abiding citizens somehow makes people safer. In fact, as statistics and the evening news make clear, it is the exact opposite."

Sigale continues the fight in Chicago through the *Ezell* case, where he and Gura successfully challenged Chicago's firing range ban before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and now are challenging the laws on building and operating a range enacted as a result.

"The regulatory scheme put in place after the ban's demise has made the 'allowance' of firing ranges illusory," Sigale said, "for there are so many restrictions and conditions that no one will ever actually be able to build, operate, or even patronize one. We will continue to fight these unconstitutional laws until Second Amendment rights in Chicago are fully respected," he expounded.

Sigale also is co-counsel in the Second Amendment Foundation's pending challenge to Illinois's concealed carry ban, titled *Moore v. Madigan*, in Springfield, Illinois.

"Forty-nine states allow some form of carrying, and still Illinois continues to dig in its heels for no good reason, except that it does not trust its law-abiding citizens. Therefore, it is fortunate that SAF cares so much about rights for all that they support

cases like *Moore* and *McDonald* and *Ezell*."

Recently, Sigale has expanded beyond Illinois to the successful challenge to Omaha, Nebraska's ban on firearm ownership for legal non-citizens, in *Pliego Gonzalez v. Omaha*.

"Omaha knew that lawful resident aliens have constitutional rights, and left the ban on the books anyway. It took the lawsuit to effect change there," he surmised. Omaha repealed its ban, but not before Sigale won an injunction against the law.

Sigale also practices business, tort and civil rights litigation. Expanding on his law practice he said, "If I can help people who have been wronged, that's really why I went to law school in the first place."

On a personal note, Sigale is also appearing in his fourth (non-consecutive) production of Judge's Night, an original musical production that lampoons the local Judges and local political figures, put on by the local Bar Association to raise money for Legal Aid.

"I was also active in the Georgetown Gilbert & Sullivan Society at Georgetown Law (the law school's theater troupe), but the irony is while I was singing and acting instead of studying, it is also where I met and became friends with Alan Gura, who years later brought me into *McDonald*. So without GG&SS, I would not have had the opportunity to do any of the meaningful work for the Second Amendment. It's a small world, after all," he revealed.

Sigale lives with his family outside of Chicago, enjoys watching his sons play baseball and basketball, and roots for the White Sox and Blackhawks.



QUICK SHOTS

The Montana Radio Shack dealer who became famous last year after offering free guns with satellite TV subscriptions is expanding that offer. According to the *Missoulian* newspaper, Steve Strand, who runs the Radio Shack in Hamilton, MT, south of Missoula, now plans on offering gift certificates for either a shotgun or pistol to customers who purchase cell phone subscriptions through his store. The original offer, which started last spring and attracted a lot of attention from around the world and some consternation from Radio Shack's corporate office, had the store giving out these same certificates to folks who purchased packages from the Dish Network satellite TV service.



In one of the more high-profile cases of self-defense that has been reported recently, prosecutors in Oklahoma did not charge a young mother who shot one of two men who attempted to break into her house while she was calling for police. The incident, which attracted a lot of national attention, involved an 18-year old woman who was alone with her infant son when the two alleged intruders tried to get into the house. As that was taking place, according to Associated Press, she was on the phone with 911 dispatchers and asked them if it was legal for her to shoot the intruders. The man who was shot died; his alleged accomplice was charged with murder in connection with that death.



A recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court will affect the rights of gun owners who also use marijuana for medicinal purposes. The Court declined to hear a case out of Oregon concerning whether federal law supersedes state laws in determining whether people with permission to use medical marijuana qualify for concealed carry permits. According to the Medford (Ore.) Mail Tribune, the case originated in 2008 when a county sheriff in that state denied a medical marijuana patient a concealed carry license on account of her usage of the drug, which is illegal under federal law.



The CDC in a recent study revealed that homicides are no longer a leading cause of death, and Chairman Alan Gottlieb thinks there's a parallel. "The CDC's report for 2010 that removes homicide from the top 15 leading causes of death in this country coincides with a period of record high gun ownership," Gottlieb said. "At the same time, increasing numbers of citizens have obtained concealed carry permits and licenses. This is pretty strong evidence that rising gun ownership does not translate to more violence and murder." Gottlieb also thinks anti-gunners may have difficulty accepting these findings. "I wonder how anti-gunners will try to spin this report," he asked. "Gun control extremists will have a hard time explaining how, after years of repeated predictions and warnings that more guns in private hands will

result in more mayhem, that homicides are no longer among the top causes of death in the United States."



An Iowa state lawmaker hopes to make gun rights part of his state's constitution. According to the *Daily Nonpareil* of Council Bluffs, Republican Rep. Mark Brandenburg is among the sponsors of a bill in Iowa's legislature that would recognize the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in the state's constitution and provide for constitutional gun rights protections at the state level. The paper reports that the measure would need to pass two consecutive years in the Legislature then be passed by voters. Iowa is only one of six states that doesn't have some form of state constitutional gun rights protections.



Republican members of Colorado's legislature have introduced four pro-gun bills in the current legislative session. According to KMGH-TV, the bills include ones to allow concealed carry on school grounds by those with permits, to expand self-defense rights to workplaces, prohibiting state officials from banning guns in the event of a state of emergency, and elimination of state background checks on gun purchases. The bills have a mixed chance of passage, since Republicans control the House and Democrats control the state's Senate.

The American Family That Lives Here Doesn't Need to Own Firearms



The residents of the White House are one of the few American families that don't really need to own firearms for their own defense. They have the best personal protection a nation can buy...24/7 Secret Service guardians.

Some governors and other high government officials are similarly shielded at taxpayer expense. And a few families are wealthy enough to pay for personal bodyguards.

Everyone else is on their own. Of course there are dedicated law enforcement officers, but they can't be everywhere all the time, and they are vastly outnumbered by the criminals. The courts have ruled repeatedly that police can't be liable for any failure to come to anyone's aid, even when lives are at stake.

The American people know that when threatened by the unexpected, they must provide for their own defense. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to arms for domestic defense, and 48 states provide for legal concealed carry of firearms.

In their homes and businesses, millions of families own firearms for personal defense, and many of those are the same popular semi-automatic rifles, shotguns and pistols which some misguided policy advocates propose to outlaw.

Such efforts would further tip the scales of safety in favor of criminals and terrorists who always ignore laws against murder, rape, robbery, carjacking and burglary just as they always have ignored gun laws. Enforcing gun bans against good citizens would place another, more difficult burden on law enforcement, with little effect on those intent on violence.

If you think you have the right to defend yourself and your family, use the coupon at lower left to remind President Obama of his campaign promise not to take away anyone's guns.

If you believe others should be exposed to this message, or if you wish to get more facts about firearms policy from the Second Amendment Foundation, use the coupon at lower right.

Dear President Obama:

During your 2008 campaign you said you believed in the Second Amendment and would not take away anyone's guns. Please don't let Congress turn law-abiding citizens into criminals with misguided gun laws affecting commonly owned firearms.

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