

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



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TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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NOW IS THE TIME TO ROLL

Now is the time for Second Amendment defenders to really roll! Congressional elections will be held in early November.

These elections will be very important from the standpoint of the individual civil right to keep and bear arms.

People generally focus their attention on the national election that occurs every four years. At that time, voters go to the polls to select their candidate for President of the United States, as well as for every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and for one-third of the seats in the United States Senate.

In the so-called off-year elections, which also truly are national elections, voters choose their candidates for every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as for one-third of the seats in the U.S. Senate. That's what will happen this November.

Currently, in the U.S. Congress, in both Houses, the pro-gun and anti-gun forces seem so evenly divided that a number of observers refer to the situation as one of legislative deadlock.

From the point of view of law-abiding gun owners, that means that we continually must be on our guard to prevent gun grabbing forces from using legislative tactics in passing anti-gun bills, such as bills to eliminate or curtail seriously traditional American gun shows.

It means also that, try as we may, it currently seems next to impossible to promote successfully such desirable pro-gun legislative initiatives as bills which would mandate general recognition of state ccw laws throughout the country.

All that could change as the result of the congressional elections to be held in November 2002.

Just a slight shift could tilt the legislative balance in either direction.

If the gun grabbers increased their forces by just a few seats in the Senate and the House, we easily could be faced just a year from now with House and Senate passage of bills to eliminate gun shows, to ban private handgun possession, to require licensing on the national level of every gun owner in America, and to mandate registration, again on the national level, of every single handgun, rifle and shotgun in America.

On the other hand, if pro-gun forces managed to increase their numbers by just a few seats in the Senate and the House, we conceivably just a year from now could enjoy a legislative situation in which the House and Senate not only avoid consideration of bills to ban gun shows and to mandate gun registration and gun owner licensing, but also gives serious consideration to measures recognizing state ccw laws on a national basis.

So these forthcoming elections are very important.

Now is the time, then, for serious, law-abiding gun owners throughout the country to start getting involved in the congressional candidate selection process.

Now is the time, in other words, to begin to roll, to start the ball rolling for pro-gun victories in November!

"ARMED" BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Over the years, those of us who have been active in the pro-gun movement have come to realize that there are volumes and volumes of literature available on various aspects of the national debate regarding our individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms and the different attempts to undermine the right or to eviscerate it.

Now, there is a one-volume work that provides a good and easily readable summary of many of the most significant aspects of the controversy, and does it from the law-abiding gun owner's point of view.

The book is entitled, simply, "Armed," and subtitled, "New Perspectives on Gun Control."

It is co-authored by two well-known right to keep and bear arms scholars, both of whom in the past have received CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awards.

The two authors are Gary Kleck, professor at the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice of Florida State University, and Don B. Kates, partner at the national law firm of Benenson & Kates.

Published in 2001 by Prometheus Books in New York, it is available for \$27 dollars from the Second Amendment Foundation bookshop at the James Madison Building, 10500 N E 10th Place, Bellevue WA 98005.

Those of us in the Second Amendment movement realize full well that the gun control debate often is obscured by strong emotions and unproven, biased arguments. We know too that, according to much false but "politically correct" opinion, accidents with handguns account for a significant number of deaths among children, gun owners endanger themselves more than they

ward off potential criminal assailants, and there is a widespread legal consensus that the Second Amendment does not support the individual right to keep and bear arms. Kleck and Kates demonstrate that the weight of criminological and legal evidence contradicts all of these assumptions, and other false assumptions as well.

Among the topics addressed are media bias in coverage of firearm and firearm-related issues, the distorting effects that a covert gun prohibitionist agenda has on the debate over more moderate and sensible measures for reducing the misuse of guns in the perpetration of violent acts, a close historical and legal analysis of the Second Amendment, and the frequency and effectiveness of the defensive use of guns.

In a chapter dealing with the latter subject, for instance, Kleck examines attempts of gun grabbers to undermine the vast evidence indicating the frequency of defensive gun use in the United States. "It is ironic," he writes, "in light of all the impassioned scholarly dispute, that large defensive gun use estimates pose no threat whatsoever to the moderate gun controls, such as background checks of prospective gun buyers, that most Americans support. These measures would not deny guns to any significant number of noncriminals, and thus would not prevent defensive gun use among the law-abiding. People who sincerely support only moderate controls, but oppose gun prohibition, should have no political concerns about large defensive gun use estimates.

"Such estimates do, on the other hand, constitute a very serious obstacle to promoting gun prohibition, which would deny guns to criminals

and noncriminals alike, and thus would reduce whatever benefits defensive gun use may yield. Therefore, in light of the absence of any intellectually serious basis for discounting large defensive gun use estimates, one plausible explanation of why some scholars cling to the rare-defensive gun use theory in the face of overwhelming contrary evidence is that they favor a disarmed populace and accurately perceive high defensive gun use estimates as a significant political obstacle to achieving national gun prohibition."



POINT BLANK

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

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GOTTLIEB RIPS INTO GUN CONTROL IDEAS

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb recently ripped into two flawed gun control laws in action: the "Gun Free School Zone" Act loophole and the unreliable National Instant Check System.

Gottlieb said a recent shooting of two students at Martin Luther King, Jr. High School in New York City is proof that the "Gun Free School Zone" loophole must be closed.

Two students were wounded seriously in the afternoon shooting by another student, who was placed in police custody. The school is located on Manhattan's Upper West Side near Lincoln Center.

"For several years," noted Gottlieb, "guns have been banned on school grounds across the nation. Juveniles no longer can legally own firearms. Legally-licensed adults cannot carry concealed handguns in a school for their own protection. Schools have eliminated extra-curricular student shooting teams. Zero-tolerance rules have led to youngsters being expelled for playing 'cops and robbers,' using their fingers as substitutes for guns. School campuses have been turned into virtual police states, complete with metal detectors at the doors, armed guards and warrantless searches. Yet there is a mile-wide loophole in this law: Gun-toting thugs don't obey it.

"The suspect reportedly got a gun inside the school, which has metal detectors, by bringing it in through a side door. The shooter was described as a 'longtime absentee student' and reportedly has gang ties, so this could be a gang-related shooting."

Gottlieb said that, "in every school shooting since the tragedy in Moses Lake, Washington, the incidents at

Pearl, Mississippi, Paducah, Kentucky, the Columbine massacre in Littleton, Colorado, and last year's shootings in San Diego, California, one glaring fact remains clear. Armed killers are not deterred by feel-good laws that prevent qualified teachers, administrators and others from being able to defend themselves and their students from a deadly attack."

Gottlieb said the Gun Free School Zone loophole exists "because current laws have turned schools into target-rich, low-risk environments. From Boston to Berkeley, the situation is the same. Armed punks have nothing to fear when they go gunning for teachers or fellow students.

"We can close the Gun Free School Zone Loophole by re-opening school campuses to the philosophy of self-defense. We can make schools safe by getting rid of specious laws that prevent people from protecting themselves on campus. Until anti-gun lawmakers and anti-self-defense organizations honestly admit that the laws they pushed have no impact, and never will, the nation will continue experiencing the kind of senseless tragedy that unfolded in New York."

Gottlieb called also for an immediate moratorium on the passage of all new gun laws until states and the federal government can update their computerized records on felony convictions and mental disabilities.

Responding to a report from Americans for Gun Safety (AGS) that claimed nearly 10,000 felons and other ineligible persons have purchased guns since mid-1999 due to record keeping problems, Gottlieb stated, "if that's true, then a moratorium on the passage of any new gun

laws should immediately be put in place, until these records and computer systems can be upgraded."

The Associated Press reported the AGS claim, in which AGS Director Jim Kessler said the criminal records for almost every state are "in terrible shape." The anti-gun group said 25 states have automated less than 60 percent of their felony conviction records and 33 states do not automate any records on people who have been involuntarily institutionalized. Several other states do not automate records of domestic violence restraining orders or misdemeanors, AGA claims in its report.

"If this is true," stated Gottlieb, "it is just more evidence that the foot-dragging by the Clinton Administration, and particularly the Reno Justice Department, in setting up the National Instant Check System (NICS) between 1993 and 1998 crippled the NICS effort from the outset. Gun rights organizations pointed to this problem years ago, because faulty records actually were preventing honest citizens from exercising their right to own guns and purchase them legally in a timely manner.

"Until such time that these records can be updated and the NICS system be allowed to function as it was intended, there should be a moratorium on the passage of any new gun control proposals. We believe, and we think Americans for Gun Safety would agree, that government should devote all of its attention to making the current system work, so that alleged felons can be prevented from buying guns, and law-abiding citizens can make legal purchases without red tape interference."

CCRKBA JOINS WITH OTHER GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO URGE PRES. GEORGE BUSH TO OPPOSE PROPOSALS FOR MANDATING NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS

CCRKBA joined with a number of public interest organizations from throughout the American political spectrum in urging President George W. Bush to oppose various proposals for mandating national identification systems.

The push for a national ID system, said John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, easily could become a basis for prohibiting gun ownership or possession without a federal license and for requiring every firearm in private hands to be registered with a central authority.

"We, representing a broad and diverse coalition of national organizations," wrote Snyder and the others in a letter to President Bush and to Norman Mineta, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, "urge the Administration to oppose the attempts of state motor vehicle officials to create a national identification system (national ID) through the bureaucratic back door of state drivers' licenses."

Joining Snyder in signing the letter were representatives of about 40 other groups. Among these were the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Conservative Union, the American Legislative Exchange Council, Americans for Tax Reform, Coalitions for America, Eagle Forum, Electronic Privacy and Information Center, Free Congress Foundation, Independent Institute, National Conference of State Legislatures, People Against Church Taxation, and the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse.

Copies of the letter were sent to all U.S. Representatives and Senators.

"One reaction to the terrible events of September 11," they wrote, "was renewed discussion about instituting a national ID card as a counter-terrorism measure. The creation of a national ID card or system is a misplaced, superficial 'quick fix' to

the terrorist threat. A national ID system would not effectively deter terrorists and, instead, would pose serious threats to the rights of freedom and equality of everyone in the United States.

"Although national ID proposals received fierce debate in the fall, the Administration and Congress wisely rejected them. Direct passage of a national ID card, however, is only one possible path to such a system. A national ID would more likely evolve bureaucratically through existing forms of ID, such as state drivers' licenses. The American Association of American Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) is urging the federal government to fund and authorize a proposal to standardize state drivers' licenses. This plan would establish a national ID and an unparalleled system of personal information sharing."

In their letter to Bush and Mineta, the coalition members stated that a national ID would not prevent terrorism. An identity card is only as good as the information that establishes identity in the first place. Terrorists and criminals will continue to be able to obtain, by legal and illegal means, the documents needed to get a government ID, such as birth certificates and social security numbers. A national ID would create a false sense of security because it would enable individuals with an ID, who may in fact be terrorists, to avoid heightened security measures.

CCRKBA and the other groups noted that a national ID would depend on a massive bureaucracy that would limit our basic freedoms. A national ID system would depend on both the issuance of an ID card and the integration of huge amounts of personal information included in state and federal government databases. One employee mistake, an

underlying database error rate, or common fraud could take away an individual's ability to move freely from place to place or even to make them unemployable until the government fixed their "file." Anyone who has attempted to fix errors in their credit report can imagine the difficulty of causing an over-extended government agency such as the department of motor vehicles to correct a mistake that precludes a person from getting a valid ID.

They stated also that a national ID would be expensive and direct

CROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM IN URGING CALLS FOR MANDATING NATIONAL ID SYSTEMS

resources away from other more effective counterterrorism measures. The costs of a national ID system have been estimated to be as much as nine billion dollars. Even more troubling, a national ID system mandated through state agencies would burden states who may have more effective ways to fight terrorism and strengthen ID systems.

Snyder and the others indicated that a national ID would both contribute to identity fraud and make it more difficult to remedy.

Americans have consistently

rejected the idea of a national ID and limited the uses of data collected by the government.

In the 1970s, both the Nixon and Carter Administrations rejected the use of social security numbers as a uniform identifier because of privacy concerns. A national ID would be "one step shopping" for perpetrators of identity theft who usually use social security numbers and birth certificates for false IDs (not drivers' licenses).

Even with a biometric identifier, such as a fingerprint, on each and every ID, there is no guarantee that individuals won't be identified, or misidentified, in error. The accuracy of biometric technology varies depending on the type and implementation. It would be even more difficult to remedy identity fraud when a thief has a National ID card with your name on it, but his biometric identifier.

The group wrote that "a national ID would require all Americans to carry an internal passport at all times, compromising our basic privacy, limiting our freedom, and exposing us to unfair discrimination based on national origin or religion. Once government databases are integrated through a uniform ID, access to and uses of sensitive personal information would inevitably expand. Law enforcement, tax collectors, and other government agencies would want use of the data. Employers, landlords, insurers, credit agencies, mortgage brokers, direct mailers, private investigators, civil litigants, and a long list of other private parties would also begin using the ID and even the database, further eroding the privacy that Americans rightly expect in their personal lives. It would take us even further toward a surveillance society that would significantly diminish the freedom and

privacy of law-abiding people in the United States. A national ID would foster new forms of discrimination and harassment. The ID could be used to stop, question, or challenge anyone perceived as looking or sounding 'foreign' or individuals of a certain religious affiliation."

The Fiscal Year 2002 House Transportation Appropriations' report encourages the Department of Transportation to study and define "the types of encoded data that should be placed on drivers' licenses for security purposes, and to work in concert with the states toward early implementation of such measures," observed the coalition. These guidelines, they continued, "could be the first step toward federal involvement in the standardization of state drivers' licenses and the implementation of a national ID. We urge you to make recommendations that would provide the states with a series of security options rather than one uniform standard that could lead to a national ID.

"We urge the Administration to reject national ID systems in any form. The Administration should not take any steps to implement such a system or fund any proposals that would result in a national ID, including the study or development of standardized state drivers' licenses. There are more effective ways to prevent terrorism that would not impact the liberty interests of Americans."

CCRKBA Members and Supporters who would like to make their views on this issue known individually to the Administration could write to The President, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500.

Juli Bednarzyk, Founder and President of Second Amendment Sisters, Inc. (SAS), is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for March.

In nominating Ms. Bednarzyk for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated that, "as we who support the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms are so well aware, our movement is a genuine people's movement.

"Our movement has many and varied aspects, comprised of many parts of our American social fabric. The specific woman's element is a most significant part of our overall movement. After all, women comprise at least half of, and quite possibly more than half of, our voting-age population.

"It is absolutely necessary for the ultimate success of our overall movement that the feminine elements within it be heard, and be heard loud and clear and with an articulate, intelligent voice.

"Juli Bednarzyk, who understands this necessity, had rendered and is rendering tremendous service to the right to keep and bear arms cause by founding and leading SAS. She is most deserving of this Award."

An Illinois resident in her early '30s who actually was born in New Orleans, Juli is employed in the technology industry and is a member of Mensa. She tells Point Blank that, prior to becoming involved with SAS, she remembers enjoying biking, political discussion, antiqueing, traveling and the outdoors.

Juli has a BA degree from the University of Illinois in Chicago where she had a double major, political science and sociology, spending a lot of time studying Criminal Justice.

After that, she attended a program at DePaul University for her entrée into the world of the Internet.

Juli calls herself an "accidental activist" and says her involvement in the right to keep and bear arms movement "is the first 'real' activism I've ever done."

She also tells Point Blank that she "did not grow up around guns" and indicates that she is a "former anti who changed her mind after looking into the facts. Not big into shooting. Never gone hunting. Not big into guns. Want to ensure that all people have the right to purchase and use firearms. Not looking to get more women into the gun world per se, but more interested in having women consider themselves pro-rights."

Juli says that SAS came about when a group of women decided they had had enough: Enough of the distortion, enough of the misrepresentation, enough of the reproach from the anti-Second Amendment crowd. Learning of the Million Mom March "was the last straw."

SAS states that in a letter sent out in September 1999, Sen. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey opined that laws that "can save even a few lives" are "worth undertaking," implying that the greater good will be served if even a few deaths can be prevented. He quoted a 1996 figure of approximately 34,000 "gun deaths" including 18,166 suicides, 14,037 homicides and 1,134 accidents in the United States for emphasis.

What Torricelli and other anti-rights zealots repeatedly "forget" to mention, notes SAS, is the fact that "firearms also produce major societal benefits including 2.5 million defensive uses of firearms each year (five times as many as the number of crimes committed with the misuse

of firearms), including 400,000 cases where the intended victims thought they were facing 'almost certain death or a high possibility of death.'

"The majority of defensive gun uses does not even involve the discharging of a weapon. Simply displaying the firearm, or firing a warning shot into the ground, is often enough to ward off an attacker, with less than three percent of those instances involving the wounding or killing of an assailant. By looking at the number of senseless deaths that guns prevent, it is obvious that the greater good is being served by having armed citizens. Unfortunately, Torricelli would never accept firearms ownership or concealed carry of defensive arms, even though they save a lot more than a 'few lives.'"

Juli Bednarzyk says that, "if you are a woman who owns a gun, you have an equalizer. Since most assailants will be bigger and stronger than you and you may also be outnumbered, and almost 90 percent of those assailants will not have a weapon of their own, you and your loved ones stand a much better chance of getting away unscathed if you are armed. Isn't that your right?"

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The students who stopped a crazed gunman in late January at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia were able to do so because they were armed with guns, even though few media reports of the incident noted that fact. When Peter Odighizuwa, a discontented student on the verge of flunking out, killed one student and two faculty members, students Tracy Bridges and Mikael Gross ran to their cars and got their handguns. They pointed their firearms at Odighizuwa, who dropped his weapon and was subdued. Out of 280 separate news articles about the event which author John Lott examined, only four mentioned that guns were used to stop the attacker.



At Mount Holyoke College, a women's liberal arts institution in Massachusetts, the school's chapter of Second Amendment Sisters (SAS) is lobbying for students' right to carry firearms. Christie Caywood, a junior at Mt. Holyoke, pointing to a series of rapes in the five-college area that includes Mt. Holyoke, insists that possession of firearms might have enabled the women to fight off their attackers. She says that unarmed students are "almost completely helpless." She adds, "I'm at a women's college and they talk about empowerment. We shouldn't have to depend on others to take care of ourselves, and that's what it's left at right now."

Handgun buyers in Maryland would have to be licensed, much

like automobile drivers, under legislation proposed by state gun control advocates, reports the Associated Press. Sponsors of the so-called Handgun Accountability Act, which was introduced in late January, said the measure would make gun owners more accountable for their firearms. Pro-gun Delegate Carmen Amedori of Carroll County, though, says it won't keep guns out of the hands of criminals. If the proposal were to become law, anyone who wants to buy handguns or so-called "assault-style" rifles first would have to provide fingerprint identification and demonstrate competency in gun safety.

In Salt Lake City, Bernard Machen, President of the University of Utah, is fighting to maintain the school's ban on firearms, concealed or unconcealed. He's opposing a recent state order demanding that all state offices, day care centers, parks, hospitals and college campuses remove gun bans for people who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon. "I'm not saying we ought to arm the entire student body," says Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, "but there is plenty of evidence to suggest that more guns equals less crime."

In Asheville, North Carolina, according to a police report, a man walked into Lord's Drug Store on Merrimon Avenue recently, and said he would shoot the pharmacist if he was not given all the Xanax in

the store. Xanax is a powerful anti-anxiety drug that is popular among street dealers. Pharmacist Michael Overman told police that he grabbed his own gun and chased the man out of the store. Police believe Overman shot at the man at least twice as he ran away. District Attorney Ron Moore has no intention of charging Overman with discharging a gun within the city limits, or any other crime. "Technically, maybe you could make a case, but I don't think 12 citizens would ever convict," he stated.

In Arizona, the State Senate Judiciary Committee reportedly is considering a measure to mandate that firearms in the home be kept locked up. Another would require background checks on all firearms transferred at gun shows, threatening felony prosecution of private citizens other than licensed dealers who transfer their personal firearms at any gathering of firearm collectors or enthusiasts without first obtaining government approval.

In Minnesota, pro-gun advocates in the state legislature are pushing a proposed Personal Protection Act which would standardize the right to carry permit process throughout the state so that law-abiding citizens would be able to obtain a carry permit to protect themselves and their families while outside their homes.

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