POINT BLANK

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



March 2011 Volume XXXVI No. 3

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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CCRKBA COUNTERS BLOOMBERG BILLBOARD

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has launched a multi-city campaign to counter a rolling anti-gun billboard effort started by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

Bloomberg announced his billboard effort—telling America that 34 citizens die every day from gun-related violence. CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb and his staff worked fast to counter the effort with a campaign that reminds people "Guns Save Lives."

"We're answering Bloomberg's flash with genuine substance," Gottlieb stated. "We will have a truck in several major cities to tell people what Bloomberg isn't telling them. Guns save between 800,000 and 2.5 million lives annually. That's 2,100 to 6,800 people every day who successfully use firearms to defend themselves. In the majority of those incidents, no shots are fired, so nobody is injured or killed."

CCRKBA teamed up with the Second Amendment Foundation, which produced educational materials on firearms rights, information on the number of lives saved annually thanks to firearms, and the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

"If you take the annual estimates of lives saved," Gottlieb explained, "you realize the high number of people who successfully defend themselves every day with firearms. Bloomberg and his cronies at Mayors Against Illegal Guns evidently don't think their lives are valuable enough to notice.

"What Bloomberg is not telling the public with his roving billboard," he continued, "is that violent crime has declined during the same period when gun ownership in this country has skyrocketed, and the number of Americans legally licensed to carry concealed handguns has risen dramatically."

Gottlieb accused the anti-gun Big Apple mayor of using the billboard effort as a smokescreen to mask his true agenda.

"America needs to look behind the façade to see that his ultimate goal is to convince Congress to implement New York-style gun control laws, ban most semiautomatic firearms, stretch background checks out to between six and nine months, and to put gun shows out of business," Gottlieb asserted.

The Bloomberg campaign "tells less than half a story," he said, "so we're setting the record straight." He quipped that Bloomberg "is shooting blanks while CCRKBA is hitting the bull's eye with information Americans need to protect their civil rights."

"No mayor, regardless how wealthy he is, should dictate to Congress or the people the terms of their civil rights," Gottlieb said. "Michael Bloomberg wants to spread hysteria about gun rights. We're going to spread the truth." Page 2 March 2011

CCRKBA COMMENDS GRASSLEY FOR ATF PROBE

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has commended Sen. Charles E. Grassley of Iowa for his inquiry into a controversial BATFE gun trafficking sting operation that may be linked to the slaying of a federal police officer.

Sen. Grassley is a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor and Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is also ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"For two years," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "we've been hearing from Attorney General Eric Holder and others in the Obama administration about a so-called 'iron pipeline' of American guns across the border. Only after recent arrests did we learn, through court documents, that hundreds of guns were allowed to be purchased by alleged straw purchasers, while BATFE conducted its investigation. According to various news reports, two of those guns showed up at a crime scene where a federal officer lost his life. CCRKBA applauds Sen. Grassley's persistence in trying to get at the truth."

The controversy swirls around "Project Gunrunner," an operation launched more than a year ago by ATF in an effort to interdict alleged gun running. However, it appears the operation actually allowed hundreds, if not thousands of guns to get into illegal traffic, ultimately ending up in Mexico.

In a letter to ATF Acting Director Kenneth E. Melson, Sen. Grassley noted that there are "serious concerns that the ATF may have become careless, if not negligent, in implementing the Gunrunner strategy."

Sen. Grassley told Melson that members of the Judiciary Committee

had received numerous allegations that the ATF sanctioned the sale of these firearms to suspected straw purchasers, who then allegedly transported these weapons throughout the southwestern border area and eventually into Mexico.

ATF announced in January the arrests of nearly three dozen suspects in the Gunrunner operation, claiming at the time that the agency had broken up a major operation. At the time, William Newell, the Special Agent in Charge of the ATF's Phoenix Field Office, told reporters that it appeared ATF agents "took down the entire organization from top to bottom that operated out of the Phoenix area."

However, Grassley observed in his letter to Melson that if the 17 individuals were merely straw purchasers of whom the ATF had been previously aware before Agent Terry's death, "then that raises a host of serious questions."

When Sen. Grassley asked Melson to set up an ATF briefing with his staff "in order to gain a more complete understanding of ATF activities in Project Gunrunner," he instead got a letter from an assistant attorney general that denied the allegations, and further urged Grassley to halt his inquiries to ATF field agents and other personnel. The letter brought a furious reaction from Grassley in the form of a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder that said the government needed to "come clean" about the circumstances surrounding Agent Terry's death.

The senator took an unusual approach in a follow-up letter to Melson, in which he reminded the acting director that federal law prohibits retaliation against whistleblowers.

He told Holder that his probe would continue, especially since the Justice Department's Inspector General released a report last November that concluded the Gunrunner project was largely unsuccessful because it focused primarily on gun dealers and straw purchase investigations, rather than on smugglers and gun traffickers. Grassley asserted that "ATF has not made full use of the intelligence, technological, and prosecutorial resources that can help ATF's investigators reach into the higher levels of trafficking rings."



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

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CITY GUN RIGHTS: A NATIONAL ISSUE

The gun rights of people who live in cities has become a national issue as pro-gun members of Congress seek to provide guarantees for those rights in Washington, D.C. Although the handgun ban was struck down in June 2008 by the Supreme Court, the Washington, D.C. City Council has been dragging its feet in implementing new gun laws that live up to the

spirit and intent of the ruling.

In an effort to rectify the situation, there is a move in Congress to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

Congressmen Mike Ross of Arkansas and Jim Jordan of Ohio introduced H.R. 645, the proposed Second Amendment Enforcement Act. It was referred to the House Committee on

Oversight and Government Reform.

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Among its provisions, the measure would repeal the D.C. semiautomatic gun ban, restore the right of self-defense in the home, authorize D.C. residents to purchase firearms and ammunition, repeal overly-restrictive registration requirements, and ensure that firearms may be transported and carried for legitimate purposes.

'CUT ATF BUDGET' SAYS CCRKBA

Reacting to the controversy surrounding the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives gun running sting that has apparently been linked to the December slaying of a Border Patrol agent in Arizona, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms urged its members to deluge Congress with demands that agency funding be cut.

Federal budget cuts could carve 13 percent out of ATF's budget, which had been compared to an "amputation" by one former ATF agent. In response, CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb declared, "Let's amputate!"

Gottlieb launched the effort, noting that Customs and Border Protection Agent Brian Terry was probably killed with a semiautomatic rifle that apparently was purchased by a suspect in the ATF's "Project Gunrunner" investigation, and subsequently ended up in the hands of one of Terry's killers.

"Hundreds of guns were allowed to be purchased along the border by alleged straw buyers," Gottlieb said, "while the ATF conducted its investigation and did nothing. The ATF looked the other way while these guns slipped into Mexico into the hands of drug cartels, and then they blamed gun laws in the United States for the transactions."

The case got the attention of Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley (see related story), ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Late in January, Grassley began seeking answers from the ATF, after his office had spoken with ATF field agents about the "Gunrunner" investigation. In a letter to acting ATF Director Kenneth Melson, Grassley suggested that the operation had carelessly, and perhaps negligently, allowed hundreds of guns to be purchased by dozens of suspects and subsequently transported across the border.

Gottlieb asserted that ATF agents at the Phoenix, AZ office allowed guns to be smuggled into Mexico as part of their investigation. He said allegations against ATF and the Department of Justice officials are serious. They include claims that agency officials allowed "perhaps as many as 3,000 firearms" to be taken into Mexico, and that they instructed gun dealers in this country to "proceed"

with questionable and illegal sales of firearms to suspected gunrunners."

Two of the rifles purchased by a chief suspect in the gun smuggling case, Jaime Avila, Jr., were recovered at the scene of Terry's murder. Documents supplied to Grassley's office, and also obtained by Point Blank, identify both firearms by their serial numbers, and also note the date they were bought by Avila at a Scottsdale gun shop. The purchase occurred Jan. 16, 2010, almost eleven months to the day that Terry was killed.

Gottlieb said pressure began mounting for revival of the ban on so-called "assault weapons" after the shooting that killed six people and seriously wounded Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Still, the administration has, he contended, tried to shift blame for such firearms being smuggled into Mexico on American gun dealers and lax gun laws.

"Wouldn't it be ironic," he said, "to learn that while the Obama administration was blaming your gun rights for the drug war violence in Mexico, its own gun sting operation was a major source of illicit firearms?"

CCRKBA LAMBASTES LAUTENBERG'S BILLS

After anti-gun Democrat Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey introduced a trio of severely restrictive anti-gun bills in Congress, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms denounced the measures as "Draconian."

"Lautenberg is one of the leaders of a committed and tightly-knit, if not tightly wrapped, group of United States Senators who will use any occasion as a platform upon which to put forward their ideas for the imposition of draconian anti-gun laws on tens of millions of law-abiding American citizens," asserted CCRK-BA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder. "For Lautenberg and others, the excuse this time was the murder of innocents in Tucson, Arizona by a deranged gunman, as if anti-gun legislative proposals directed against the gun rights of decent people somehow would prevent criminal behavior by nut cases."

Snyder recalled in a prepared statement that Sen. Lautenberg and others have proposed similar ideas in the past, "and most likely will continue to do so."

BULLETIN

CCRKBA announced its support for a bipartisan national ccw reciprocity bill, H.R. 822, by Reps. Cliff Stearns of Florida and Heath Shuler of North Carolina. Referred to the House Judiciary Committee in late February, it would provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a state may carry concealed firearms in the state. Stay tuned.

"These extremists constitute an ongoing threat to maintaining the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms for law-abiding American citizens," he said.

Snyder urged CCRKBA members and supporters to remain in contact with both of their own U.S. Senators and urge them to oppose these antigun proposals. He also appealed to Point Blank readers for continued support in order to carry on the fight on Capitol Hill.

The three Lautenberg anti-gun bills are S. 32, the proposed Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act; S. 34, known as the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2011, and S. 35, the proposed Gun Show Background Check Act of 2011. All were referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Democrat Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

S. 32 is a companion measure to H.R. 308, introduced in the House by antigun Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and 65 cosponsors. The bill would define a large capacity ammunition device as a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has a capacity of more than 10 rounds, but would not include an attached tubular magazine commonly found on .22-caliber rifles.

The measure would renew the Clinton era added-capacity magazine "ban" and make it permanent. It would go further, however, by prohibiting the transfer or possession of large capacity magazines but would "grandfather" such devices possessed on the effective date of the act.

"Lautenberg and the nine original cosponsors make a group of 10 who think it's up to them to dictate to tens of millions of law-abiding American citizens how many cartridges they can feed into their firearms at any one time," Snydersaid. "They're trying to take away a right of the people and convert it into a power of government. They must be stopped."

Lautenberg's S. 34 would permit the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of an explosives licenses to "known or suspected terrorists." Snyder called it "a heinous and duplicitous bill."

"It would enable the Attorney General, at the present time the anti-gun Eric Holder, to put the name of anyone on the list on a subjective pretext and deny his or her civil rights," he noted.

Most troubling about the legislation is that nobody has explained how someone's name is added to a terrorist watch list, nor has anyone explained how one gets his or her name off of such a list.

The final bill, S. 35 would require background checks for all private transfers of firearms and ammunition at gun shows, and is similar to Rep. McCarthy's H.R. 591. This measure would set up a federal system for gun show regulation, essentially creating yet another gun control bureaucracy.

It would define gun shows as any event at which 50 or more firearms are offered or exhibited for sale, transfer, or exchange, if one or more of the firearms has been shipped or transported in, or otherwise affects, interstate or foreign commerce. The definition also applies to shows at which at least 20 percent of the exhibitors are firearm exhibitors, there are at least 10 firearm exhibitors, or 50 or more firearms are offered for sale, transfer, or exchange.

PHYSICIAN EXCORIATES MEDICAL GUN GRABBERS

Gun grabbers leave no stone unturned in their attempts to undermine the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. They've even promoted their anti-individual rights agenda through professional associations, including medical associations.

One of the physicians who have been taking the lead in countering this nonsense is Timothy Wheeler, M.D., a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, and Director of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership.

In a column, Dr. Wheeler listed a number of questions which physicians may pose to patients.

"Do you own a gun?" is one of the questions. "How many guns do you have? Do your children have access to guns in your home? Did you know that having a gun in your home triples your risk of becoming a homicide victim?" Dr. Wheeler noted that, "These are questions your doctor may ask you as part of routine physical examinations or questionnaires. These are ethical boundary violations that violate privacy rights of patients and families.

"Gun-related questions in doctors' offices are based on a medical political movement against gun owners. The movement is led by the American Academy of Pediatrics, although the American Medical Association (AMA) and other physician groups have launched similar efforts."

However, Dr. Wheeler pointed out that, "Sometimes a doctor is right to ask a patient about guns in the home. Amentally disturbed patient who has expressed intent to do harm would be an example where such intervention is justified. But in most cases, questions about guns do not reflect a physician's concern about gun safety. Rather, they are intended to prejudice impressionable and trust-

ing children and their parents into thinking that guns are somehow bad.

"That political motive makes these questions ethically wrong. Any doctor who asks them is committing a form or unethical conduct known as an ethical boundary violation. And any doctor who commits an ethical boundary violation should be disciplined."

He noted that, "Patients who file written complaints with respective state consumer agencies are rare, compared to the number of patients whose rights are abused. Patients fear retaliation from their doctors and medical staffs. These fears are not unfounded. Patients/families have been verbally abused and chastised by doctors and medical staffs for refusing to answer gun questions.

"Unethical doctors who abuse your trust to advance a political agenda against law-abiding gun owning families must be stopped."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

In the aftermath of the Tucson shootings, committed by a clearly deranged individual with a left-wing political bias, anti-gunners are renewing calls for gun control legislation. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) has introduced H.R. 308, a bill that would ban future transfer of any magazine with a capacity of more than 10 rounds. Rep. Laura Richardson (D-CA) introduced H.R. 367, a bill to prohibit otherwise lawful possession of a firearm within 500 feet of any place where a member of Congress is making a public appearance. Republican Rep. Peter King (R-NY) has introduced a similar bill, H.R. 496. Additional restrictive bills will likely follow.

If you haven't already introduced yourself to your Congressperson (Representative) and two Senators, NOW is the time to do so. As part of their constituent services, elected officials have an obligation to keep citizens informed of action on legislation of interest, no matter what their position on the bill(s). Write a short letter (preferably one page) to each of your legislators asking them to keep you up to date on any gun related bills. Ask them to oppose further restrictions on law-abiding citizens.

Contact information about your legislators can be found on the internet at http://house.gov, http://senate.gov or on the left margin at http"//ccrkba.gov under "Congressional Information." Local contact information may also be found in the blue "government listings" pages of your local telephone directory.

OKLAHOMA STATE SENATOR THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

Oklahoma State Senator Steve Russell of Oklahoma City is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for March.

"During this time of stress for believers in the right to keep and bear arms when officials of various kinds seek to undermine Americans' gun rights, it is most gratifying that officials such as Sen. Russell stand up so forcefully in defense of our rights," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, in nominating the Oklahoman for the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award. "He is most deserving of this distinction."

Russell demonstrated this recently when Oklahoma Police Chief Bill Citty came out publicly in support of tougher anti-gun laws. Citty reportedly stated that although he supports an individual's right to own a gun, "he sees no practical reason why someone needs an AR-15 or similar weapon," according to Bryan Dean of newsok.com.

Dean pointed out that "a federal ban on assault weapons outlawed the AR-15 and other semiautomatic versions of assault rifles, along with high-capacity magazines" expired in 2004.

In reaction, Russell wrote "I strongly disagree with (Citty's) view that certain types of military-style firearms inherently pose a great public threat.

"City Councilmen Sam Bowman and Pete White have supported Citty's stance and share the belief that these types of weapons have no place in civil communities. I consider these comments to be uncivil to the hundreds of thousands of law-abiding Oklahoma gun owners. More

importantly, efforts to impose these views on all citizens are a danger to our guaranteed Oklahoma and United States constitutional freedoms."

Russell wrote that, "As co-chairman of the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee and as a member of both Senate public safety committees, I call on Citty to provide the data that shows these types of weapons are used extensively in crime and pose a greater threat statistically than any other commonly held and legally purchased type of firearm.

"There is simply no empirical evidence to support his claim. According to the FBI, crime has dropped 14 percent since 2004, the period he cites as when the so-called ban on military weapons expired. The fact is these weapons were never banned but only certain modifications to them were."

Russell charged "Citty's proposal of registration or titling of such weapons violates Oklahoma's constitution. Furthermore, being able to protect ourselves with the type of firearm we feel most comfortable with is a part of our federal constitutional freedoms. These are basic rights – not privileges bestowed on us by benevolent politicians. His views are something one might hear in San Francisco but are not welcome in Oklahoma. Citty also needs to be mindful that Section Two, Article 26 of the Oklahoma Constitution prohibits any such action as he proposes.

"Citty states that he cannot imagine why anyone would want to own such a weapon. On behalf of tens of thousands of active serving and veteran military, I find such comments an affront to the law-abiding citizen. Many soldiers keep such arms to maintain shooting proficiency and

many veterans develop an affinity with such weapons they carried in the service, even though these are semi-auto only and are not automatic of the type carried in the service. Tens of thousands of Oklahomans keep and bear such weapons with no threat to the public. The implication that these citizens are either crazed or criminals is offensive."

Russell is the sponsor of several pro-gun bills in the Oklahoma State Senate, including one that would allow any adult to openly carry a firearm and another to permit concealed handguns on college campuses.

Under Sen. Russell's proposal, anyone with a valid concealed handgun license would be allowed to carry a firearm on campus, although colleges or universities still would be able to prohibit firearms at sporting events and other "access-controlled" events. Sen. Russell also filed a bill that would allow anyone 18 or older to openly carry a holstered firearm, even if he or she does not have a concealed carry permit.

Elected to the Senate in 2008, LTC Russell retired after serving 21 years in the US Army in Airborne Light and Mechanized assignments in the Arctic, the desert, the Pacific, in Europe and in the continental United States. He served more than seven years overseas and has deployed operationally to Kosovo, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Highly decorated, Russell has received the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Valorous Unit Award and also holds the Airborne and Ranger Qualifications.

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In Ferry Pass, Florida, Jack Crawford, 72, shot two teenagers after they allegedly beat him with a baseball bat during a home-invasion robbery. Pensacola Police Department officials said three teenage males knocked on the door of Crawford's home in the evening, reported the Pensacola News Journal. When he answered the door, one of the teens hit him in the head with an aluminum bat and tried to force his way into the home. "I opened it up and he hit me right off...Wham! Split my head open," Crawford said. "So I shot him and another guy," Crawford said. The attackers fled the scene on foot, and Crawford's 70-year old sister, who also lives at the home, called the police. Police said three Pensacola teenagers were charged with home-invasion robbery and aggravated burglary in connection with the case. Two were arrested at a local hospital after being dropped off for treatment with gunshot wounds to the torso. The third was later arrested at a nearby rental home. Crawford said he grabbed his handgun as he went to answer the door. "At nine at night, I never take any chances," he said.

In Washington, D.C., the House of Representatives approved by voice vote an amendment to the proposed Continuing Resolution Act, H.R. 1, which would prohibit the use of federal funds for a BATFE proposal to require FFLs to report all sales made within five consecutive business days of two or more semiautomatic rifles larger than .22 caliber using detachable magazines. Reps. Denny Rehberg of Montana and Dan Boren of Oklahoma proposed the measure. The House then passed H.R. 1.

*

Rep. Denny Rehberg also introduced H.R. 420, the proposed Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2011, to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and in addition to the House Ways and Means Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Congressman Rehberg said H.R. 420 would correct a law that currently treats World War Two and Korean War-era veterans like criminals for not registering war relic firearms with the federal government. "Arbitrarily treating law-abiding citizens like criminals is one of the biggest problems with federal gun registration requirements," said Rep. Rehberg, a member in the House of the Second Amendment Task Force. "In this case, we're literally talking about punishing men and women who put their lives on the line for our freedom. It's unacceptable and I'm going to try and do something about it."

*

CCRKBA said Ithat a proposal before the South Dakota Legislature that would require all adults in the state to buy a gun "should make perfect sense to anybody who supports Obamacare." CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said a bill sponsored by five South Dakota lawmakers that would require anyone over 21 years of age to purchase a gun for ordinary self-defense seems reasonable. "If you can mandate that people buy health insurance, then you can mandate that people buy a firearm," he said.

*

In the two and a half years since the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the Washington, D.C. handgun ban, "hundreds of Washington's safest, most well-to-do neighborhoods have armed themselves, registering far more guns than people in poorer, crime-plagued areas of the city, according to D.C. police data," reported Paul Duggan last month in *The Washington Post*.

*

In Salt Lake City, Utah, the State House voted 51-19 to designate the Browning M1911 handgun the State's official firearm. If passed by the State Senate and signed into law, the bill, House Bill 219, would make Utah the first state with a designated official firearm.



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.

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