

POINT BLANK

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



**February
2014**

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LEGISLATURES SWING INTO ACTION

State legislatures are now in full swing, and among the various bills that have already been introduced are a couple of pro-gun measures in Washington State, a gun control bill in neighboring Oregon and one in West Virginia that would render federal gun laws unenforceable.

Washington State lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow the legal possession of short-barreled rifles and shotguns, provided they are owned in compliance with federal laws.

Another measure would remove the sales tax from firearms and ammunition in an effort to keep Washington residents from purchasing firearms from out-of-state sources. Of particular interest to gun rights activists, the bill notes legislative recognition that the people of the state have reserved to themselves the individual right to bear arms.

In West Virginia, some state lawmakers are pushing the so-called Firearms Protection Act. According to published reports, this bill would prohibit enforcement of any federal law that attempts to limit magazine capacity or ban semi-auto firearms.

California lawmakers were quick to introduce new anti-gun legislation. Senate Bill 199 would, according to published reports, ban the sale or transfer of used and antique BB guns and "imitation firearms" that do not have some coloring on them that signifies they are toys. Senate Bill 808 slaps fees and restrictions on home gunsmiths who build or assemble personal firearms.

The Democrats took control of the Virginia State senate in a special election in late January and Gov. Terry McAuliffe's anti-gun agenda has received a boost.

In New Hampshire, a pair of background check bills have been introduced, both by Democrats. One bill would require universal background checks for all gun sales in the state, and the second would require the reporting of people determined to not be mentally fit to own a gun to the federal instant check database.

In Missouri, there's a pro-gun bill working through the legislature. The proposals in the bill, include lowering the age one can get a CCW permit in to 19, tougher penalties for illegal immigrants found with a gun, barring doctors or other health care workers from asking patients whether they own guns, and expanded open carry for CCW holders in the state.

In Arizona, several lawmakers are backing legislation that would lower the age limit to 19 for members of the military who wish to get a state concealed carry permit if they were discharged from the military with an honorable or general discharge.

GOTTLIEB TESTIFIES ON GUN RIGHTS INITIATIVE IN WA

Two days of emotion-laden hearings before Washington State House and Senate committees regarding two competing initiatives – one supported by a coalition of pro-gun groups including the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the other an 18-page gun control measure, Initiative 594 – found CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb defending gun rights against former Congresswoman Gabrielle “Gabby” Giffords and husband Mark Kelly.

Giffords and Kelly traveled to Olympia, Wash., to support I-594, which pushes so-called “Universal background checks” and they contended it would help prevent the kinds of crimes that left Giffords severely wounded.

Gottlieb was joined in testimony by Phil Shave, executive director of the Washington Arms Collectors (WAC); Robin Ball, a firearms dealer and owner of an indoor gun range in Spokane; CCRKBA Legislative Director Joe Waldron and Brian Judy, Washington state liaison for the National Rifle Association.

There was actually very little discussion about Initiative 591. This measure would prohibit government gun confiscations without due process, and require that all background checks done in the state comply with a uniform national standard. It would derail expanded checks and essentially keep things as they are now.

“Contrary to what you may have heard, read, or even been told, I-591 is not and never has been designed to prevent background checks,” he assured both committees. “The process should be quick...and

without a mountain of bureaucratic red tape or 18 pages of complicated regulations designed to discourage rather than encourage the exercise of a constitutionally protected, fundamental civil right.”

During questioning before the Senate committee, he crossed verbal swords with anti-gun Democrat Sen. Adam Kline when the senator challenged Gottlieb to ask shooting victim Cheryl Stumbo “how intrusive the result of an un-checked sale was to her.”

Gottlieb fired right back that “it wasn’t because that sale was checked. It did go through a background check,” he reminded Kline, “and it (the shooting) happened anyway.”

Stumbo was one of several people wounded in the 2006 Seattle Jewish Federation shooting, committed by Naveed Haq who bought two handguns from different stores in eastern Washington. He passed background checks and went through the state-mandated waiting period before committing his crimes.

“You’re setting up a straw man,” Gottlieb told Kline. “It’s not legitimate. It didn’t happen in this case...It appalls me, what happened to her. It’s disgusting, but the thing is, you’re taking away and restricting everybody else’s rights because somebody might misuse something. That’s not the way we do things in the United States.”

Political theater

Giffords and Kelly appeared only before the House Judiciary Committee, with Kelly doing most of the talking and urging action on I-594, which is much more than a simple background check

measure, and could actually impact youth hunting, firearms education programs and competition, according to testimony.

Noting that he and his wife are both gun owners, Kelly asserted that expanded background checks would keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally unstable, while acknowledging – as did virtually every other witness in support of I-594 – that there is no way to prevent all gun-related crime.

Stumbo, who sponsored I-594, did not have a direct response

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

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SENATE VERSION OF KNIFE OWNERS' PROTECTION ACT DEBUTS

New legislation in the U.S. Senate that would protect the rights of citizens who carry knives has been introduced by Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Mike Lee (R-UT).

Knife Rights, an organization founded in 2006, backs the legislation. The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has long been an ally of this fledgling organization, and CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb says gun owners should take a close look at this bill.

According to Knife Rights Chairman Doug Ritter, this new legislation complements a House measure dubbed the Knife Owners' Protection Act (KOPA).

"Having KOPA bills in both houses of Congress was a key Knife Rights strategy from the start," Ritter said

"increasing the chances for legislative success. Accomplishing this without substantive differences between the two bills further enhances the likelihood that the law eventually enacted will accomplish fully our goal of protecting America's knife owners."

"Knives are an essential tool for hunters and various occupations and the right to carry them with you when you're on the road is something that should be protected," said Enzi. "A few overzealous states or cities shouldn't be in the business of punishing folks for what is legal in most parts of the country just because they passed through their jurisdiction. A sportsman from Wyoming shouldn't fear they are going to be charged, fined, or arrested

because they are lawfully traveling with a hunting or pocket knife across state lines."

"This is a commonsense provision that protects responsible knife owners and respects the rules in different jurisdictions. This bill would go along ways in protecting innocent travelers from governmental overreach," Lee added.

The Lee-Enzi bill is S. 1955.

According to Ritter, the new legislation, like its House counterpart, "will solve a real and growing problem that faces every knife owner traveling throughout America."

He said when knives that are legal at the place where a journey starts and ends, knife owners ought to be protected from arrest "simply for traveling from one place to another."

TESTIMONY BY GOTTLIEB

(Continued from page 2)

when, during the Senate hearing, Republican Sen. Steve O'Ban ran down a list of high-profile shootings in which the gunmen had all bought their firearms at retail and had successfully completed background checks.

'It's a start'

One of the most revealing statements during the House hearing came from the Rev. Steve Baber from the Skyway Baptist Church near Seattle and co-chair of the Washington Christian Leaders Coalition.

Addressing the committee, Baber stated, "We should act on this 594. It's just a start. It won't resolve it. It's

not perfect, but we at least start."

The following day, Linda Clifton, with the Pacific Anti-Defamation League, urged the adoption of I-594, stating, "Your leadership can set a standard for the country by passing it."

That is the underlying concern of Washington firearms owners who, like gun owners across the map, are apprehensive about what the "next" step might be. Gun owners in neighboring states are also watching this issue closely because many believe that if the I-594 effort is successful in Washington, it will spread.

Washington gun owners are concerned that passage of I-594 paves the way for a massive gun registry, the likes of which are already being used against gun

owners in California and New York, where a generation ago, gun control proponents scoffed at gun owner concerns about registration, calling those concerns paranoid.

Sources in the Legislature have indicated that it is unlikely lawmakers will take any action on either initiative, opting instead to send both to the November ballot, where the voters will decide.

Gottlieb and other gun rights leaders are concerned that I-594 backers, who have very deep pockets and the support of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, can wage a very expensive campaign.

Gottlieb told Point Blank that he is convinced the Legislature will do nothing with either measure and put both on the November ballot, allowing the public to decide.

NATIONAL CCW RECIPROCITY BILL INTRODUCED

U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) has introduced the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2014, in an attempt to bring full faith and credit to concealed carry by private citizens.

Joining Cornyn as co-sponsors are Idaho Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, John Thune (SD), David Vitter (LA), James Inhofe (OK), Richard Burr (NC) Lindsey Graham (SC), Mike Johanns (NE), Mike Enzi of (WY), Rob Portman (OH) and Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts (KS).

The Constitutional Concealed Carry Act would require that states recognize concealed carry permits and licenses from all other states, same as they now honor driver's

licenses. It is not aimed at establishing national standards or nullifying existing state laws.

But as Crapo said in a statement published in the *Idaho State Journal*, "Law-abiding citizens across the country should not be denied the fundamental right to self-defense while they are traveling or temporarily away from home. This bill protects state sovereignty and does not establish national standards for a concealed carry, nor does it veto laws in those states that prohibit concealed carry permits."

It is not the first time such legislation has been introduced, and the proposal always faces tough opposition from anti-gunners including Sens. Charles

Schumer, (NY), Dianne Feinstein (CA) and Patty Murray (WA).

"This bill strengthens two of our nation's most fundamental rights," Cornyn noted, "ensuring law-abiding gun owners can lawfully carry their weapons into like-minded states, while respecting the rights of states to adopt laws that are best-suited for the people of that state. This is an important affirmation of the Second Amendment and one that has been a top priority of law-abiding gun owners for some time. It is time to get this done."

By some estimates, there are about 8½ million American citizens now licensed to carry concealed.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Last spring, President Barack Obama said he would use "the power of the pen" – Executive Orders (EOs) – to promote his gun control agenda.

Last month, he directed the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Justice (DOJ), to develop new rules to expand existing federal restrictions on the possession of firearms.

Current law prohibits firearm possession by several categories of individuals: convicted felons, domestic violence misdemeanants, fugitives, subjects of certain types of restraining or protective orders, etc. It also includes anyone "who has been adjudicated as a mental defective or who has been committed to a mental institution."

Current federal law (HIPAA – the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) places significant restrictions on the privacy of mental health data to protect those individuals receiving various forms of treatment. The president ordered HHS to create a way to avoid HIPAA and allow states to report mental health data into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

The president further ordered the Justice Department to broaden the definition of those "committed to a mental institution" to include those ordered by a court to receive outpatient treatment.

Together, these actions will add millions of Americans to the "prohibited persons" pool, likely including those being treated for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other less debilitating disorders. In the overwhelming majority of cases, persons so afflicted do not pose a threat to others, and should not be denied a fundamental right.

Public law trumps EOs. Congress can put a stop to these unilateral actions. But they won't unless you act now to contact your elected officials and tell them to stop the misuse of Executive Orders.

Contact information can be found at www.senate.gov, at www.house.gov, in the blue "government" pages of your telephone directory, or at www.ccrkba.org in the left margin under Congressional Information.

NEW DATA IS AMMUNITION FOR GUN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

New data on the financial benefits of target shooting in the United States make good political ammunition for grassroots gun rights activists across the country.

The data comes from a new report, released in January by the National Shooting Sports Foundation at the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show, attended by Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and members of the CCRKBA staff.

The report is titled *Target Shooting in America: Millions of Shooters, Billions of Dollars*. This 16-page document is jammed with facts and figures that activists can use to promote such things as range development and range protection legislation, effective firearms education programs and genuine firearms safety (as opposed to gun control measures pretending to be gun safety proposals).

Here are some of the highlights:

- More people go target shooting every year than live in the states of New York or Florida;
- In 2011 – the most recent year for which data is available – target shooting added \$23 billion to the nation's economy;
- That same year, target shooting supported more than 185,000 jobs;
- Recreational target shooting generated \$15.2 billion in tax revenue in 2011;
- Retail sales associated with target shooting account for nearly \$10 billion annually, and leading in popularity are rifle and handgun shooting;
- Target shooters and hunters together added more than \$110 billion to the national economy, supporting more than 866,000 jobs;

- California and Texas show the top retail sales figures related to target shooting;

- Target shooters and hunters spend nearly identical amounts on equipment common to both endeavors, at \$8.2 billion and \$8.4 billion, respectively. The expenses cover firearms, ammunition and accessories.

The report includes state-by-state data on the number of target shooters and what they contribute to each state's economy.

In addition to the NSSF report's data, the 2012 FBI Uniform Crime Report is another great resource where the numbers refute popular gun control myths, especially the deliberately alarming "30,000 people killed by guns every year" argument.

This statement is designed to make people believe that 30,000 people are murdered every year with firearms, and that is demonstrably untrue. According to the FBI, the most recent data available reveals that in 2012, there were 12,765 homicides, of which 8,855 were committed with firearms.

Of that number, 6,371 involved handguns, 322 were committed with rifles and shotguns were used in 303 slayings. One might ask why, if the number of rifles used in homicides across the United States is so low, do anti-gunners want semi-automatic rifles banned?

Preliminary data for 2013 violent crime should be available sometime this spring.

CCW APPLICATIONS IN COOK COUNTY SURGING

If Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel thought he would be able to dampen public interest in personal protection, the early year surge in the number of carry permit applications in Cook County should teach him a lesson.

According to the *Daily Herald*, some 10,000 people in the Chicago area applied for carry permits during the first 15 days of the state's new application process. That is more than the combined totals from surrounding counties including Lake, Dupage, McHenry and Kane counties. The newspaper said "DuPage County residents sent 1,589 applications, Lake County reported 1,164, McHenry County had 822 and Kane saw 761" applications.

The newspaper said there are

currently 1.6 million licensed gun owners in the state, and when the concealed carry statute took effect, the state police estimated as many as 400,000 applications would be filed during the first 12 months. Right now, the agency is reportedly averaging between 800 and 1,000 applications a day.

Under the law, people must take a 16-hour firearms course in order to qualify for the carry permit. Instructors have been reporting an overwhelming number of applications.

Illinois became the last state in the country to establish a concealed carry process, having been forced to by at least two lawsuits, and the federal courts.

LOUISIANA'S JEFF THOMPSON: DEFENDER OF THE MONTH

When gun rights activists across the country turned out for rallies celebrating the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms on Sunday, Jan. 19, it was a major story that did not go unnoticed by the press.

The event was a win on several levels, not the least of which was personal for Eric Reed, founder and president of Gun Rights Across America. He told *Point Blank* before the rally effort that, "We're trying to be proactive right now."

"I don't want to see the gun grabbers get a jump on our constitutionally protected civil rights," he said.

Reed was recognized in 2013 as the Grass Roots Activist of the Year by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms during the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference held in Houston.

Initially called the "Stand Your Ground" protest, the Guns Across America rallies sent signals to state lawmakers that their actions during the current session will not go without notice.



Eric Reed receives a Grass Roots Activist of the Year award from Alan Gottlieb.

Gun Rights Across America is a grassroots organization and Reed has been described as a "staunch Second Amendment supporter." Yet, one gets the quick impression that Reed is more than a mere "supporter" of the important constitutional provision. He lives the Second Amendment every day, while some self-described "supporters" give the amendment lip service.

With associated movements in all 50 states, Reed plans to be very busy as 2014 unfolds into the mid-term election season.

Reed has a clear view on how to win, and how to lose, the gun rights battle. In a recent blog, he wrote, "I personally possess a Texas concealed carry license, but given a choice between open carry or concealed, I'd choose concealed. But that is my personal choice. That being said, you'll be hard pressed to find a stronger advocate of open carry than me. A right not used, is a right you'll lose!"

"Stop wondering if legislation being passed will infringe on your personal interests, and start worrying about if it infringes on the 2nd Amendment, period," he exclaimed. "Gun control is a very slippery slope. They start with the so called 'assault weapons' and 'high capacity magazines.' But that'll grow into the .50 caliber rifles. Because who needs a bullet that big? Then the semi-automatic pistols, because the founding fathers didn't carry Glocks. Next the double barreled shotguns, because why do you need two barrels? Revolvers will go next because they're useless for killing Bambi, and then the bolt/pump action rifles will be taken. It's not that far of a stretch. It's already beginning in some very liberal/anti-gun states..."

"Criticizing other gun owners for open carry vs. concealed carry, or AR/AK shooter vs. trap/skeet shooter divides us. Doing that will only intensify the damage to our 2nd Amendment that's already been done."

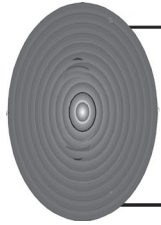
He is not afraid to take the gloves off, either, attacking anti-gunners at every opportunity. That's why he is this month's Gun Rights Defender.

CCRKBA-BACKED INITIATIVE QUALIFIES

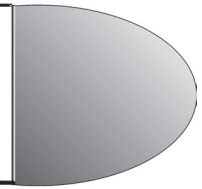
Initiative 591, the Washington State measure pushed by Protect Our Gun Rights – the coalition that includes the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – was officially certified by Secretary of State Kim Wyman, and according to the count, it garnered more signatures than the opposing measure, Initiative 594.

I-591 was certified with 349,860 signatures, while I-594 was certified with 346,834 signatures, a margin of 3,026 signatures. That may not seem significant until one reads the latest e-mail from the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility that was sent out over Giffords' signature.

In the e-mail, Giffords asserted that "we have a small yet vocal opposition to overcome." It would appear that the "small" opposition is a bit larger than WAGR imagined, or might want Washington voters to know.



QUICK SHOTS



Students at the University of Arkansas might soon have an option for storing their firearms on campus.

The university's student newspaper reported that student government leaders are looking into a proposal to create a student gun storage "safe" within the campus's police department. Current state and university regulations bar the possession of firearms on the university campus in Fayetteville, but the paper reported that the proposal was brought forth after a concern was raised about the current policy and its impact on members of the university's shooting team.



A Democrat state lawmaker in Kentucky found herself in hot water recently over the accidental discharge of her gun inside the state capitol.

WHAS-TV in Louisville reported that the incident involved Rep. Leslie Combs from Pikeville. According to the report, citing a statement from the lawmaker's office, she was unloading her handgun, a Ruger semi-automatic, when it went off. No injuries were reported. Rep. Combs told WHAS the incident happened while she was meeting with a fellow Democrat state lawmaker.

Combs' misfortune with her gun set off a debate with one lawmaker suggesting that the state look at banning guns inside the capitol building, and the anti-gun Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense state chapter calling for her resignation.



Major league baseball fans are in for more scrutiny under a plan that will require baseball stadiums to pass people through metal detectors as they enter to see a game.

The revelation has raised more than a few tempers in Washington, where the Seattle Mariners and Safeco Field are among the first to implement the new policy, which was reportedly worked out with the Department of Homeland Security.

The problem gun rights activists have is with a state law that allows licensed concealed carry in public facilities, and Safeco Field was financed in large part by public bonds. Under state statute, public facilities management can ban firearms with an exemption for citizens licensed to carry under state law.



A new bill in Oklahoma, House Bill 2351 seeks to protect the free-speech rights of pro-gun students.

According to the Associated Press, the bill, proposed by Republican Rep. Sally Kern, would bar schools from disciplining kids for wearing clothing bearing the logos or otherwise supporting pro-gun organizations, such as the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and its sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation.

The bill, the AP said, also would bar schools from punishing students who possess toy guns on campus.



With gun rights remaining a hot topic in Colorado, state gun owners have a new group representing them on the issue at the state level.

The Colorado Statesman website reported that a new 501(c)(4) group, the Colorado Second Amendment Association, was formed to help continue pro-gun political momentum in the state that originated with the high-profile recall efforts of three Democrat lawmakers over anti-gun legislation passed last year in the state.

The website reported the CSAA adds another voice to the pro-gun rights community in Colorado, including the Rocky Mountain Gun Owners and the Firearms Coalition of Colorado.



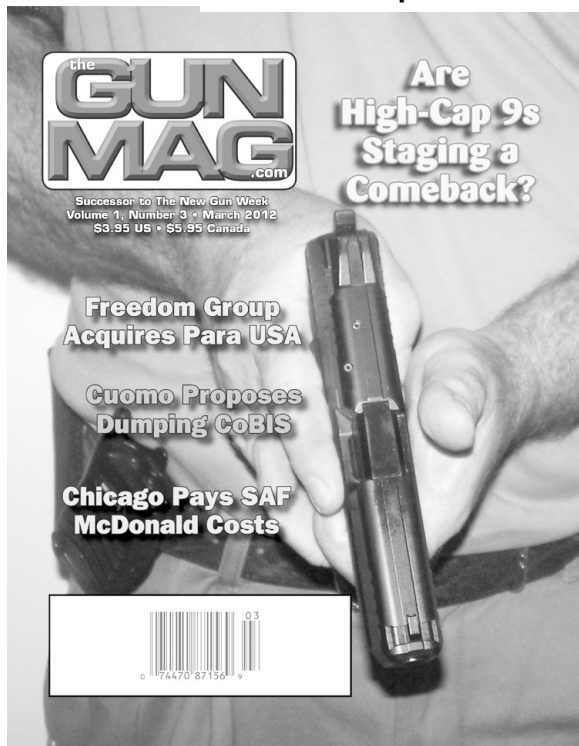
WGHP-TV in Winston-Salem reported a committee of that city's council voted to bring the issue of a gun buy back to a full vote of the council. City police have requested approval for a gun buyback which would be like many others which have taken place around the country, one where people can turn in guns and receive compensation for those weapons; in Winston-Salem's case, according to the TV station, cash would be used as that compensation.

Police have asked the council for money to put the program into action, with additional money required for the effort to come from other sources.

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