

POINT BLANK

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



**April
2011**
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OBAMA: CONFER ABOUT PROJECT GUNRUNNER

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said CCRKBA would be eager to talk with the Obama administration, especially about the "Project Gunrunner" and "Fast and Furious" scandals. In these scandals, federal agents helped facilitate gun sales to suspected gunrunners.

Leaders of two House committees, Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform, as well as the Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, have called for probes of the scandals.

Gottlieb's statement followed reports that other gun rights groups declined to participate in a "new discussion" about firearms and crime with the administration.

Gottlieb acknowledged that CCRKBA as of this writing had not been asked to participate in a "new discussion" outlined by President Barack Obama in an article that appeared in a Tucson, Arizona newspaper.

"However," he said, "We would be delighted to sit down with the president and talk about how his administration has supplied guns to criminals.

"If we were invited, it won't be for a photo opportunity. There are serious issues American gun owners want discussed, such as restoration of rights, national concealed carry reciprocity, cracking down on states like New Jersey, New York and California that routinely violate gun owners' rights, lifting the administration's ban on importation of historic World War II-era rifles, reining in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, especially the Phoenix office and its 'Fast and Furious' operation, and the nomination of anti-gun rights Andrew Traver to head BATFE."

"If Obama were really serious about opening a dialogue about firearms and crime, it should not have taken him more than two years in the White House before claiming he wants to meet with gun rights advocates."

Earlier, Gottlieb indicated he thought Obama and probably his entire administration remain confused about firearms safety and gun control.

"The president evidently can't tell the difference between genuine gun safety advocates and gun prohibitionists," said Gottlieb. "Obama's remarks reveal that he equates gun control with gun safety, when in reality the self-proclaimed 'safety' advocates spend all of their time spreading anti-gun hysteria, and none of it promoting responsible gun ownership."

In his Tucson newspaper essay, the president stated "gun-safety advocates" should realize most gun owners "are highly responsible." He wrote that, "Advocates for gun owners should accept the awful reality that gun violence affects Americans everywhere, whether on the streets of Chicago or at a supermarket in Tucson."

CCRKBA HITS LATEST SCHUMER ANTI-GUN BILL

"Some guys never quit," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder.

"For years, Charles Schumer has taken just about every legislative opportunity he can to undermine Americans' gun rights. His latest anti-gun bill is S. 436.

He calls it the Fix Gun Checks Act of 2011. It has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The chairman is Sen. Pat Leahy (D-VT)." Snyder said,

"This proposal has one original cosponsor. That is Democrat Kirsten E. Gillibrand, New York's junior Senator. When Gillibrand was a U.S. Representative, she was known as a pro-gun Congresswoman. In fact, David Paterson, at the time Governor of New York, originally appointed Gillibrand to fill the remainder of a Senate term. That was the term of Hillary Rodham Clinton, who resigned the Senate to become U.S. Secretary of State.

"Gillibrand won the Senate seat on her own in last November's election. On the gun issue, she now obviously follows the lead of Schumer. He is one of the Senate's top anti-gun spokesmen, maybe the top anti-gun legislator. Gillibrand quickly has made the switch from pro-gun Congresswoman to anti-gun Senator."

The arrogant anti-gun attitude of the bill's sponsor is evident from the wording of the full title itself.

It proclaims that "all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system." What's so terribly arrogant about this is Schumer's assumption that it's his prerogative to determine who "should be prohibited" from buying a firearm.

The full title proclaims also that a background check shall be required "for every firearm sale." That would mean that a father who sells a gun or collection of guns to his son could not proceed unless a government-approved background check takes place. Or a mother to her daughter. Or a neighbor to a neighbor.

It's evident from the full title alone that the Schumer-Gillibrand bill is a most intrusive piece of legislation.

The bill, if it became law, would be a legal vehicle for the federal government in the person of the Attorney General to dictate state behavior. It would do this by withholding certain funds from the states which do not comply with certain federal standards.

Under the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, states are encouraged to provide certain records to NICS.

What S. 436 would do is give discretionary authority to the U.S. Attorney General to withhold certain funds from states which fail to provide certain records, even if they are unable to do so.

The Schumer-Gillibrand anti-gun bill also seeks to exert greater federal control over institutions of higher education.

It would target each college, university, or postsecondary institution that receives federal funds.

It would require each such entity to establish a "mental health assessment plan."

The plan would have to include a framework to address the risks posed by students who, "as a result of mental illness or incompetency, pose a safety risk to themselves or others."

S. 436 would prohibit anyone who is not a federal firearms licensee from transferring a firearm to a non-licensee without jumping through several legal hoops.

The transfer would have to go through a licensed dealer. Or through a law enforcement agency. Or after inspecting a permit that confirms a background check.

"S. 436 is an horrendous bill. It's an attempt to kill gun shows as well as impose more and more bureaucratic burdens on American gun owners," said Snyder.



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA LAUDS CCW BILL AS IT GAINS COSPONSORS

A number of Representatives now list themselves as cosponsors of H.R. 822. This is the proposed bipartisan National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. Reps. Cliff Stearns, a Florida Republican, and Heath Shuler, a North Carolina Democrat, introduced the measure.

As of this writing, H.R. 822 has over 80 cosponsors. It has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, whose chairman is Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX). It then was referred to its Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. Its chairman is Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI).

Congressman Stearns has been sponsoring national CCW reciprocity legislation since 1995. He is a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month. He serves on the Energy & Commerce Committee and is chairman of its Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

H.R. 822 would apply to any person with a state-issued permit to carry a concealed firearm. It would allow such a person to carry a concealed firearm in any state that issues permits to carry concealed firearms, or that does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms for lawful purposes. If the bill were to become law, a state's law governing where concealed firearms may be carried would apply within its borders.

"We urge early and positive consideration of the measure," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, last month in Washington, D.C. "H.R. 822 would provide a national standard with which nonresidents of a state may carry concealed firearms in the state. CCRKBA Members and Supporters could contact their U.S.

Representative. They could urge their Representative to cosponsor H.R. 822."

The bill stipulates that the Second Amendment "protects the fundamental right of an individual to keep and bear arms." This fundamental right includes "for purposes of self-defense."

H.R. 822 declares "the overwhelming majority of individuals who exercise the right to carry firearms in their own states and other states have proven to be law-abiding." It affirms "such carrying has been demonstrated to provide crime prevention or crime resistance benefits for the licensees and for others."

It indicates the prevention of lawful concealed carry by individuals traveling outside their home state is an interference with the constitutional right of interstate travel. It notes such interference "harms interstate commerce."

It states explicitly as a reason for national CCW reciprocity that the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized the individual Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. It did this in the District of Columbia v. Heller and in the McDonald v. City of Chicago cases.

It states also the Court "has recognized that the right is protected against state infringement by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States." It did this in the McDonald case.

Snyder said passage of H.R. 822 would be "a good, solid step toward universal concealed carry reciprocity. An individual who has a state-issued permit to carry a concealed firearm ought to be able to carry in any state in accordance with the law. This would

be similar to the way an individual with a driver's license issued by a state can drive in other states.

"Such a law would benefit society as well as the individual. As John R. Lott, Jr. has pointed out in his study More Guns Less Crime, rates of violent crime drop precipitously in jurisdictions adopting CCW laws."

He said "states recognize this. The vast majority have such laws on the books. Members of Congress know this. Several have indicated the personal possibility of utilizing the benefits of CCW laws. In addition to Shuler, these include Reps. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Allen West (R-FL), and Renee Ellmers (R-NC)."

Snyder said "gun-grabbing politicians and media extremists try to manipulate the criminal use of firearms by a few into a platform. They try to use this platform to generate public support for limits on the gun rights of all law-abiding citizens. They appear practically to salivate when an individual misuses a gun in a particularly heinous manner. They're bent on undermining the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

"The people aren't buying their junk. Polls show declining support for gun control laws and increasing support for the gun rights of all Americans. Legal purchases of guns and ammunition are at record levels."

Snyder said "what's missing is a law enabling citizens with state-issued CCW permits to carry guns throughout the United States. It's time to close this loophole in the right to self-defense."

CCRKBA SEE RISK OF COMPLACENCY

"The left has permanently lost the argument on gun control," proclaimed *The Washington Times*.

"Would that it was true," commented John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

"While a lot of things have been going our way recently," he added, "there's a lot of anti-gun activity in Congress and elsewhere. Just consider the anti-gun bills proposed already in both the Senate and House of Representatives. They're described in Point Blank as the occasion demands.

"Consider, too, that President Obama has honey-combed his administration with anti-gun personnel. Remember Eric Holder is Attorney General. Remember Janet Napolitano is Secretary of Homeland Security. These are just a couple of names that come to mind."

Snyder said "we also have to keep in mind that the last two justices appointed to the Supreme Court, both by Obama, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, came to Washington, D.C. with a lot of anti-gun baggage. They still apparently carry it around.

"Then there are the ongoing questions regarding the activities of personnel in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE). We know that Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa is trying to find out what's really going on in that federal agency. So are a lot of other people."

"It's important to remember, too," continued Snyder, "the activities of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and a number of his cronies in Mayors Against Illegal Guns. They're doing their utmost to promote anti-gun laws at the local, state and national levels.

"Bloomberg and other political gun grabbers have a built-in cheering squad in the mainstream media."

Snyder said "gun rights and gun control are active and vital political issues. They have not gone away and there's no solid indication they're going away soon. The fact is we have to continue to fight for our right to keep and bear arms. This we at CCRKBA continue to do. We hope you support us. We need your help."

It is true that tens of millions agree with us on the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. This gives us reason for hope.

"Since the tragedy in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, Americans' desire for their Second Amendment rights shows no signs of weakening," Brad O'Leary reported last month in *Townhall.com*. "President Obama ignored a change in gun policy in his State of the Union Speech, but the White House promised on January 27 that Obama would unveil a push for more gun control in the coming weeks. This push for more gun control from the White House has yet to come."

O'Leary, chairman of The PM Group, cited a Zogby International poll conducted just 10 days after Obama's State of the Union speech. It showed that, "if anything, voters have become more supportive of their Second Amendment rights," wrote O'Leary. "The poll surveyed 10,000 likely voters and was commissioned by ATI-News and The O'Leary Report."

Voters were asked to answer the following. "Please tell us if gun laws in America are adequate, too harsh, or too lenient for law-abiding gun owners."

According to the survey of voters, an overwhelming 75 percent of them think that gun laws are either adequate or too harsh for law-abiding citizens. Thirty-three percent think gun laws are too harsh. Interestingly, 57 percent of Democratic voters consider gun laws to be adequate or too harsh. Only 36 percent think they're too lenient.

According to the survey, a majority of voters nationwide, 61 percent, want a change in a gun law in many states. They want to allow people to use firearms inside and outside their homes in self-defense. They want this without any stipulation that requires they first attempt to retreat from their attacker.

"From this and other polls," said Snyder, "it's evident that the people oppose the anti-gun agenda of many political powers-that-be and their media supporters. It would appear that something's got to give at some point. As indicated above, the move for gun control is on and we the people oppose it.

"The battle is on."

One thing *The Washington Times* did accurately point out is "when ever the left is defeated at the statehouse and ballot box, it turns to the courts. The Supreme Court shot down most of these efforts with the *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. City of Chicago* rulings reviving judicial recognition of the Second Amendment."

"One thing you can be sure of, though," commented Snyder, "is that the gun grabbers have not given up. They're wrong, but they're 'true believers.'"

CCRKBA GUN RIGHTS TRUCK TOURS AMERICAN CITIES

"Guns Save Lives," proclaims the billboard.

The truck visited Chicago, Milwaukee, Miami, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Washington, D.C.

CCRKBA is visiting cities to counter billionaire New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's campaign of fear against firearm owners.

Bloomberg and Mayors Against Illegal Guns are sending a moving billboard truck around the country. It claims



34 Americans are "murdered with guns every day."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said Bloomberg's campaign "tells less than half of the story. We're setting the record straight. We're answering Bloomberg's flash with substance.

"We're telling 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, or prevent a criminal attack. In the majority of those incidents, no shots are fired, and nobody is killed or injured. In some cases where shots are fired by armed citizens, several lives are saved."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Representative Cliff Stearns (R-FL) has teamed up with Representative Heath Shuler (D-NC) to introduce H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. H.R. 822 is similar to bills filed by Representative Stearns in several previous Congresses.

As written, the bill requires all states that have some form of carry licensing system (48 states at current count) to recognize other states' licenses. Thus it would NOT require Illinois or Wisconsin -- or the District of Columbia -- to allow concealed carry by licensed non-residents (although Wisconsin may soon join the growing list of shall-issue states).

Some have expressed concern that if Congress mandates recognition of state carry licenses by another state, a future Congress could use that as an excuse to meddle in state firearm laws. That is true whether H.R. 822 passes or not. If an anti-gun Congress has the votes, it can enact any such restrictive legislation it likes -- subject to challenge in the courts.

By limiting the effect of the bill to states that already issue some form of concealed carry license, much of the potential controversy is averted. The timing for this bill is right. And if it is passed by the Republican-controlled House it can be amended into must-pass legislation (such as the Homeland Security appropriation act) to clear the Senate and gain President Obama's signature.

Please write to your Congressperson and urge him or her to sign on as a co-sponsor if they have not already done so. Contact information for your elected officials is available in the left margin ("Congressional Information") at <http://www.ccrkba.org>

CHUCK GRASSLEY THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

Sen. Charles E. Grassley of Iowa is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for April. He's a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor.

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, nominated Grassley for the Award. He said "Sen. Grassley is working to uncover the facts behind questionable activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE).

"The burgeoning scandal involves a BATFE firearms straw purchaser sting operation that may have resulted in the murder of a federal agent. Grassley faces BATFE stonewalling in response to his questions and has raised the ante with questions to the Attorney General, Eric Holder, as BATFE is a unit of the Justice Department. Grassley regards the investigation as his responsibility as a U.S. Senator for oversight over government agencies. He surely should receive a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award."

Chuck Grassley came to Washington, D.C. in 1975 as a recently-elected U.S. Representative. He indicated he believed in and would protect Americans' Second Amendment rights. He was elected to the Senate in 1980 and has served there since 1981. "He has been true to his word all these years," said Snyder.

Chuck Grassley is Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is a Republican. If the GOP wins a majority of Senate seats as a result of the 2012 elections, Grassley could become chairman. If that happens, it'll be watch out, BATFE, and watch out, U.S. Justice Department. Grassley had misgivings about Holder's nomination to head the

Justice Department in 2009. He said he was concerned about Holder's "overly restrictive views of the Second Amendment...I'm a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, so I'm concerned that Mr. Holder's views may be too limited...I don't understand why Mr. Holder is willing to consider the need for new gun laws and regulations, when we could be embracing a nationwide expansion of a proven, successful program enforcing existing gun laws."

Following the shootings early this year in Tucson, Arizona, Grassley told a group of high school students in Iowa he had not changed his pro-gun owner opinions.

In the Senate, Grassley has voted a number of times for the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

He voted in favor of allowing firearms in checked baggage on Amtrak trains. This was on a proposal by Sen. Roger Vicker of Minnesota. It was an amendment to ensure that law-abiding Amtrak passengers are allowed to securely transport firearms in their checked luggage.

He voted in favor of a national ccw reciprocity amendment by Sen. John Thune of South Dakota. It would have allowed the holder of a state-issued ccw permit to carry in other states that issue ccw permits.

He also voted in favor of prohibiting foreign aid and United Nations aid that restricts United States gun ownership. This was on an amendment by Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana. This prohibited the use of funds by international organizations, agencies, and entities, including the UN, that require the registration of, or taxes on guns owned by American citizens.

He voted for a bill to prohibit civil

liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition. The prohibition is for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

Grassley voted against banning lawsuits against gun manufacturers for gun violence.

He voted against a proposal to require background checks on all firearm sales at gun shows.

Chuck Grassley was born September 17, 1933 in New Hartford, Iowa, where he still lives.

He married Barbara Speicher in 1954. The couple has five children, Lee, Wendy, Robin, Michele, and Jay.

Chuck Grassley reports he is a farmer and his son, Robin, currently operates the family farm.

He was a sheet metal worker, 1959-1961. He was an assembly line worker, 1961-1971. He was elected to the Iowa Legislature 1958.

Grassley received his B.A. in 1955 and his M.A. in 1956 in Political Science from the University of Northern Iowa. He did doctoral work at the University of Iowa.

His memberships include the Farm Bureau, the Butler County and State of Iowa Historical Societies, Pi Gamma Mu, Kappa Delta Pi, the International Association of Machinists (1962-1971), Masons, Eagles, and Baptist Church.

In the Senate, in addition to the Judiciary Committee, he serves on the Finance, Budget, Agriculture, and Joint Tax committees. He is Co-Chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control. He is Co-Chair of the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth.



QUICK SHOTS

CCRKBA announced its support for S. 381, the proposed bipartisan Collectible Firearms Control Act, by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) and a number of cosponsors. It would allow certain firearms listed as curios or relics to be imported into the United States by a licensed importer without obtaining authorization from the State or Defense Department. It was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Its House companion, H.R. 615, by Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) and cosponsors, was referred to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means.



In Florida, state Rep. Jason Brodeur (R-33) introduced House Bill 155, to stop anti-gun doctors from asking children and parents if they own guns and then telling them to get rid of their guns. It would prevent doctors from denying care to children if the parents refuse to answer questions about gun ownership. It's been referred to the Criminal Justice Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee.



In New York City, a Bronx jewelry store owner used a gun to blast two armed thugs who tried to rip him off in mid-February, the *New York Post* reported. The wild scene unfolded early one afternoon. The owner of Spinelli & Sons buzzed in a man and a woman. One of the would-be robbers whipped out a gun. He

ordered the owner, Anthony Spinelli, 49, to take money out of the safe, said police sources. Then, Spinelli grabbed his licensed handgun. He began firing at the suspects. The couple fled. Spinelli kept firing after them. He hit a third suspect, who was standing by the getaway vehicle, a Cadillac Esplanade. He was struck in the left leg, taken to St. Barnabas Hospital, and charged. The man and woman suspects continued to flee. Two other merchants joined in the chase. One told the *Post*, "This is our neighborhood and we protect our neighborhood." Police were still looking for the two suspects.



"Some public employee unions support gun control," writes Howard Nemerov. "Former American Federation of Teachers (AFT) president Sandra Feldman believes that many school shooting incidents were committed by boys who 'grew up in a culture where adults have a positive attitude towards guns, and the access to guns of all kinds is unfettered.' She believed the solution was to 'pass state and federal gun control laws that do a better job of restricting children's access to guns. Mandatory child safety locks on all guns would be a good start. So would stricter laws for licensing and monitoring those who sell guns.' In 2010, the AFT was the second highest contributor (\$5,183,670) of all public sector unions, after the National Education Association (\$6,778,670). Former NEA president

Reginald Weaver supported gun control, having praised three top national gun control proponents for their legislative accomplishments." The three were the late Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), and Sarah Brady.



CCRKBA blasted S. 176, the so-called Common Sense Concealed Firearms Permit Act of 2011 by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA). "It's an attempt to infringe on states' rights," he said. "It would dictate to the states that they meet federal requirements before issuing permits to carry concealed firearms. We urge our members to contact both of their U.S. Senators and demand they oppose this wretched proposal." It's been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, under the chairmanship of Sen. Pat Leahy (D-VT).



Second Amendment scholars David B. Kopel, Paul Gallant and Joanne D. Eisen are blasting a UN-related organization of international gun control treaty supporters for claiming armed violence is responsible for 740,000 deaths annually. "We find that the claim is based on dubious assumptions, cherry-picked data, and mathematical legerdemain which is inexplicably being withheld from the public," they charge. Their article, "How Many Global Deaths from Arms?," appears in the *New York University Journal of Law & Liberty*.

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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