

# POINT BLANK

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

## **CCRKBA JOINS IN SUPPORT OF GCA '68 REFORM MEASURE**



**July 2015**

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TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**

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New legislation that would provide some "reforms" to the 1968 Gun Control Act by replacing the "sporting purposes" standard on importation of certain firearms and ammunition, and update how they are defined got quick support from the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

H.R. 2710, known as the "Lawful Purpose and Self-Defense Act of 2015," was introduced by Utah Congressman Rob Bishop. In a press release, he noted that this legislation "will also eliminate ambiguity in current code that could allow the ATF and the Administration to restrict certain types of shotguns and shotgun shells that are used for self-defense."

Bishop further asserted that the ATF "has exploited vagaries present in federal gun law to chip away at basic rights. This legislation will slap the over-reaching hand of the federal government and restore some of the freedoms our grandparents enjoyed."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb quickly concurred.

"There is no 'sporting purpose' stipulation in the Second Amendment," he said, "and there should not be one in federal law. The right to keep and bear arms is not just about hunting or target shooting. It is time for this restrictive language to be replaced."

Under the proposal, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives would no longer have the authority to arbitrarily re-classify certain ammunition as "armor piercing." An attempt to do that earlier this year created a firestorm and the proposal was tabled. H.R. 2710 would allow importation of firearms and ammunition that are not subject to the National Firearms Act, and prevent arbitrary classification of large caliber rifles, shotguns and shotgun shells as "destructive devices."

The ATF has come under increasing criticism over the past several years for such fiascos as Operation Fast and Furious in Arizona, Operation Fearless in Milwaukee and the attempt to re-classify popular M855 ammunition for the AR-15 rifle as "armor piercing."

As the Supreme Court determined in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the right to keep and bear arms was never written to protect hunting or target shooting.

"The right to keep and bear arms may encompass hunting and competition," Gottlieb said, "but that's not why the Founders included it in the Bill of Rights."

Continued on page 2

# 'PRESERVE FREEDOM' IS THE THEME OF 2015 GRPC

The 2015 Gun Rights Policy Conference will be all about preserving freedom when it convenes Sept. 25-27 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix, Ariz., the 30th annual event!

Co-sponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, this year's conference will have plenty to review that has happened since last year's gathering in Chicago.

Perhaps chief among the subjects sure to be discussed is the way anti-gun elitists including billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg are now bankrolling the gun prohibition movement.

Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety lobbying group contributed more than \$2 million to the campaign to pass Initiative 594 in Washington State, and Bloomberg personally kicked in more than \$200,000. In all, he and his lobbying organization provided roughly 20-25 percent of the money spent on the campaign to pass the 18-page gun control measure.

Bloomberg's money also helped elect more anti-gun Democrats to the Oregon Legislature, and that made it possible to push through a so-called "universal background check" measure in Salem earlier this year.

There is also big money backing a similar gun control initiative campaign in Nevada this year.

The full roster of speakers at this year's GRPC has not been finalized, but in the past this event has brought together such veteran Second Amendment advocates as CCRKBA Chair Alan Gottlieb, Second Amendment Foundation President Joe Tartaro, attorney Alan Gura, plus Tom Gresham, Massad Ayoob, Sandra Froman, Eugene Volokh, Emily Miller, Mark Walters, John Lott, Larry Elder and many more.

See the back page of *Point Blank* for more information and to register.

## 1968 GCA Reform

Continued from page 1

"Congressman Bishop's legislation represents a good step forward in the effort to expand Second Amendment rights and self-defense protections," he added.

"It is long past the time for the 'sporting purposes' provision to be the standard by which firearms and ammunition are judged," Gottlieb observed. "That standard has allowed a bureaucracy to decide what are 'good' or 'bad' guns and ammunition, when there has never been any justification. Bishop's measure is a great idea."

Bishop's measure came at a time when several gun control bills had been introduced by anti-gun congressmen and women. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced a measure that would require all gun owners to carry liability insurance. Under her bill, proof of insurance

would have to be provided before anyone could buy a firearm. It would also carry a fine of up to \$10,000 for any gun owner without insurance.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland introduced a measure to encourage states to adopt laws requiring citizens to obtain licenses to buy handguns, claiming that research suggests such laws reduce violent crime. Under the bill, would-be handgun buyers would have to provide local police with photographs and fingerprints, and submit to a background check in order to get the purchase permit.

Such a law already on the books in New Jersey is being blamed for the slaying of a Berlin Township woman who had obtained a protection order against an ex-boyfriend. But while her application was still in process, he attacked and killed her in the driveway of her home.



# POINT BLANK

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

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# MAJOR CARRY VICTORY IN PUERTO RICO

In what was a surprising and far-reaching victory for gun rights in Puerto Rico, a Commonwealth court ruled in June that the territory's firearms registry and licensing requirements to purchase and carry guns are unconstitutional.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory and thus is subject to U.S. federal court jurisdiction.

The ruling essentially opened Puerto Rico up to carrying openly or concealed without any kind

of license or permit, according to Sandra Barreras with Ladies of the Second Amendment (LSA). Known in Spanish as Damas De La Segunda Enmienda, the group brought the class-action lawsuit and is affiliated with the Second Amendment Foundation through the International Association for the Protection of Civilian Arms Rights (IAPCAR). SAF is the sister organization of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

"Cumbersome firearms regulations have never prevented criminals from getting their hands on guns," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, after hearing of the ruling. "They have only inconvenienced law-abiding citizens, or deprived them outright from exercising their rights under the Second Amendment."

Barreras told *Point Blank* that more than 850 individual plaintiffs were involved in the lawsuit, which could face an appeal.

# FURY OVER SLAYING OF NJ WOMAN WAITING FOR PERMIT

New Jersey's Draconian gun laws came under fierce attack over the murder of a woman in Berlin Township by an "ex-boyfriend" against whom she had a protection order, while she was waiting for her gun owner permit application to clear at the local police department.

Carol Bowne had applied for the permit on April 21. Forty days later, she visited the police department to check on the status of her application, which was still pending. Two days after that, she was stabbed to death in the driveway of her home.

It was a brutal murder, and an equally brutal lesson about the gun control laws in the Garden State.

Police hunting for the alleged killer found him dead three days after the slaying, an apparent suicide.

According to detailed coverage of the slaying by the *Courier Post* in Cherry Hill, it sometimes takes a couple of months to process an application in New Jersey. The process gets bogged down, some

say deliberately, in bureaucratic red tape. In the wake of Bowne's slaying, however, three state legislators announced they would introduce legislation to speed up the process in cases like Bowne's. Such a proposal would still have to get through the New Jersey Legislature.

Scott Bach, executive director of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs (ANJRPC), was harshly critical of his state's gun laws in an interview with NJ.com. He asserted that NJ authorities are "notorious for violating state-mandated time frames" for issuing permits.

"This woman's life was tragically taken because of New Jersey gun laws," Bach told a reporter.

Many believe that if her permit application had been processed in a timely manner, Bowne might have been able to buy a gun and have it for self-defense at her home, where the fatal attack occurred.

Many in the firearms community have noted that anti-gunners

frequently promote new gun restrictions by observing that "if it saves just one life, it's worth it." This time, they argue, a state gun law has cost one life, and it should be scrapped.

Bowne had worked in a salon and was well-liked by her peers. The man who authorities believe killed her was 45-year-old Michael Eitel. Writing for *National Review*, Charles C.W. Cooke said Bowne's suspected killer "was a convicted felon who had previously been found guilty of weapons offenses and aggravated assault..." New Jersey's restrictive gun laws didn't keep Bowne alive, because she was killed with a knife, nor did domestic abuse laws.

Another aspect of this story that has many gun owners furious is the lack of coverage by the mainstream press. Some believe it is because coverage would amount to an indictment of gun control laws that prevent law-abiding citizens from exercising their right to keep and bear arms.

# LEGISLATURES WRAPPING UP WITH SOME WINS

With legislative sessions winding down at the state level, the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has news on a few states where pro-gun bills have been passed.

There are going to be a lot of changes for gun owners in Louisiana.

According to the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, six bills related to gun rights have passed the state legislature and signed by Gov. Bobby Jindal. The bills include ones that would allow gun safety to be taught to elementary school children, allow some exemptions to local shooting regulations and increase penalties on anyone who publishes concealed handgun information.

In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott signed a pair of pro-gun bills into law, legalizing open carry of firearms and carry of guns on college campuses. Both measures had been hotly debated, but Abbott followed through on promises to sign them.

Ohio State House members approved a bill that would expand the number of places, such as college campuses, people could carry their firearms concealed; according to the Associated Press, the bill would still allow places to ban guns on their own if they wish. This is one of several proposals regarding gun rights in the state currently working through the legislative halls in Columbus; another one that has attracted a lot of attention

is one that has been tucked into the state Senate's budget proposal.

According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the proposal would ban news media from accessing information about state concealed carry licenses, including such things as how many are issued, renewed or suspended.

And in Florida, gun owners are about to receive a bit of a tax break.

According to the *Tampa Bay Times*, a bill has passed the state's legislature and been signed Gov. Rick Scott that would provide a number of tax cuts to residents statewide. Among the cuts that are part of the package is one that would end a sales tax on gun club memberships.

In North Carolina, sweeping changes to gun laws there are being debated. The state's House of Representatives took up the measure June 16, and while they passed it on a first vote, the bill, according to the Associated Press, was amended with several provisions that lessened the scope of the proposed legislation.

The AP reports that among the provisions added to the bill as amendments were ones that will keep the state capitol building in Raleigh off limits to carrying of weapons, even by staff and lawmakers, and also eliminated a provision that would have seen the eventual scrapping of the state's pistol permit application system.

The bill was expected prior to press time to get another House vote, but would then still need approval from the state's Senate and governor before it becomes law, which still means there's a long road ahead for this legislation.

## ACTOR VAUGHN STUNS H'WOOD, DEFINES GUN RIGHTS

Actor and producer Vince Vaughn recently had the entertainment media doing head-stands over remarks he made in an interview with the British GQ in its July issue, about the right to keep and bear arms.

According to Vaughn, "It's not about duck hunting. It's about the ability of the individual."

The mainstream press tried to focus on Vaughn's views regarding guns in schools. He's in favor of having guns in schools to prevent violent attacks.

"You think the politicians that run my country and your country don't have guns in the schools their kids go to," he asked the British GQ interviewer. "They do. And we should be allowed the same rights. Banning guns is like banning forks in an attempt to stop making people fat. Taking away guns, taking away drugs, the booze, it won't rid the world of criminality."

What most of the reports seemed to overlook, perhaps deliberately, were Vaughn's comments on the right to bear arms.

"We don't have the right to bear arms because of burglars," he told the magazine. "We have the right to bear arms to resist the supreme power of a corrupt and abusive government."

Vaughn didn't stop there, either. He provided some insight on mass shootings that anti-gunners never seem to understand.

"All these...shootings that have gone down in America since 1950," he observed, "only one or maybe two have happened in non-gun-free zones. Take mass shootings. They've only happened in places that don't allow guns."

# CCRKBA RIPS LATEST 'SMART GUN' PROPOSAL

Almost immediately after anti-gun Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney of New York unveiled their proposed "Handgun Trigger Safety Act of 2015," the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms ripped into the scheme as "a stupid idea."

If passed, the legislation would require that within five years of passage, all handguns manufactured in the United States include "smart gun" technology that allows them to be used only by "authorized" users.

According to The Hill, under this legislation, "Gun dealers would be required to install smart gun technology that fires only if it recognizes the shooter, such as the person who purchased the gun

or someone they designate as an authorized user. Some smart gun technologies use fingerprints, while others require the shooter to wear a Bluetooth bracelet or receive a microchip implant that unlocks the gun."

Within ten years of passage, this bill would also require private gun dealers to retrofit used handguns with this "smart gun" technology. The legislation provides for reimbursement of the cost of installing the technology. The measure also provides grant funding to "qualified entities" to develop this "personalized handgun" technology.

"The current technology is a proven failure, but that doesn't seem to impress anti-gunners who keep

pushing this dumb idea," Gottlieb observed in a statement to the press. According to The Hill, Maloney said, "The majority of Americans support sensible steps to reduce the bloodshed in our streets, schools, churches and other public spaces."

But Gottlieb quickly noted that this proposal is hardly sensible.

"It is ridiculous to propose a law requiring the use of technology that doesn't work," he said. "It's a measure with only one purpose, and that's to sidestep the Second Amendment by eventually rendering all handguns as useless as the lawmakers who promote these goofy ideas."

"What we really need is a law mandating smart legislators," he quipped.

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Two bills of importance to gun owners are making their way through Congress at this time. You need to give your elected officials some positive reinforcement to help smooth their passage through the process.

H.R. 2710, the "Lawful Purpose and Self Defense Act of 2015," by Rep. Ron Bishop (R-UT) removes the "sporting use" restrictive criteria from the Gun Control Act of 1968. This language was originally used to block import of surplus military firearms.

ATF most recently used this as justification to try to ban import of certain types ammunition, namely 5.56mm M855 and SS109 ammunition and its clones, by claiming it is armor piercing ammunition and thus not suitable for "sporting use." ATF backed down after the gun owners expressed their outrage via the public comment provision on new regulations.

In June the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2578, the "Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 2016." Added into the ATF funding portion of the bill is a provision to allow individuals convicted of non-violent felonies to have their firearm rights restored. The amendment was offered by Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO) and was adopted by a voice vote. The rights restoration process has been in law for decades, but funding for it has been prohibited since the early 1990s, when then-Representative Chuck Schumer (D-NY) ran an amendment to block funding.

Now is the time to write both to your Congressman (Representative) and two Senators and politely but firmly ask them to support H.R. 2710, and ask your Senators to support H.R. 2578.

Contact information for your elected officials may be found at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and at the "Congressional Information" link in the left margin at [www.ccrkba.org](http://www.ccrkba.org). Contact information on all federal elected officials may also be found in the "blue pages" at the front of your telephone directory.

# UTAH'S ROB BISHOP IS AFFIRMATIVE DEFENDER

When Utah Congressman Rob Bishop introduced H.R. 2710 – the Lawful Purpose and Self-Defense Act of 2015 – he fired a political shot across the bow of an agency that has seemed to many to be out of control for years with law-abiding gun owners as the ultimate victims, and an administration that has not discouraged overreach when it comes to firearms regulation.

The measure quickly picked up co-sponsors, and got fast support from gun rights organizations including the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

The legislation would strip the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives of the authority to ban popular ammunition for the AR-15 rifle, and also change the “sporting purposes” and “sporting use” standards on the importation of shotguns and ammunition that are used for self-defense.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb issued a statement reminding Congress that “There is no ‘sporting purpose’ stipulation in the Second Amendment, and there should not be one in federal law. The right to keep and bear arms is not just about hunting or target shooting.”

“It is long past the time for the ‘sporting purposes’ provision to cease to be the standard by which firearms and ammunition are judged,” he added. “That standard has allowed a bureaucracy to decide what are ‘good’ or ‘bad’ guns and ammunition, when there has never been any justification. Bishop’s measure is a great idea.”

Rep. Bishop spent 16 years in the Utah Legislature, including a term as Majority leader and as Speaker of the House. He also served two terms as chairman of the Utah State Republican Party and is a co-founder of the 10th Amendment Task Force in the U.S. House of Representatives

He chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources and serves on the Armed Services Committee and the Readiness Subcommittee. He also served on the House Rules committee and was instrumental in creating the 10th Amendment Task Force.

In a press release announcing his legislation, Bishop asserted that the ATF “has exploited vagaries present in federal gun law to chip away at basic rights. This legislation will slap the over-reaching hand of the federal government and restore some of the freedoms our grandparents enjoyed.”

“Congressman Bishop’s legislation represents a good step forward in the effort to expand Second Amendment rights and self-defense protections,” Gottlieb said. “The right to keep and bear arms may encompass hunting and competition, but that’s not why the Founders included it in the Bill of Rights.”

## CCRKBA TURNS TABLES ON EVERYTOWN ORANGE

When Everytown for Gun Safety – the \$50 million so-called “grassroots” gun control organization financed by billionaire Michael Bloomberg – launched a national effort to call attention to “gun violence” by having supporters wear fluorescent orange shirts and vests, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms was a step ahead, noting that this is a color also worn by jail and prison inmates.

On the day that Everytown held its national observance, CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb watched a phenomenon unfold on social media that beat back the gun control crowd.

He also poked fun at Bloomberg, who also founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns, where several members were expelled because they were convicted of felonies. The Everytown effort was supported by another Bloomberg-backed group, Moms Demand Action.

“We were stunned that the organizers of this event chose the same color that many prison inmates, including several ex-members of Bloomberg’s Mayors Against Illegal Guns, are wearing every day of the year,” Gottlieb chuckled in a press release. “At least they’re sticking with a color familiar to so many anti-gun politicians.”

“When this publicity stunt was launched,” Gottlieb noted, “the organizers tried to peddle this as an adoption of the color that hunters wear for safety. What they didn’t expect was that millions of gun owners fought back, reminding the gun grabbers that orange is also the color of prison jumpsuits.

“What was truly deplorable,” Gottlieb added, “is that this effort tries to send a subliminal color-coded message, linking crime and violence to legitimate recreational shooting. Maybe next year, the gun prohibition lobby should just wear black and white stripes.”



# QUICK SHOTS

The intercollegiate women's rifle program at the University of Alabama-Birmingham will be coming back after a controversial decision last winter to drop it from the school's sports offerings.

ESPN reported the university chose to reinstate the rifle team, along with men's football and women's bowling, after public outcry and increased donations to the school in an effort to keep the teams active. The university had initially announced the decision to scrap the programs citing financial difficulties.

UAB overall competes at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)'s Division I within Conference USA; the rifle team competes within a league known as the South-eastern Air Rifle Conference.



The Lone Star State is where our defensive gun use file takes us for a case that brings two hot-button political issues together – firearms self-defense and illegal immigration.

The incident in question happened in the town of Center. According to KTRE-TV, police responded to a storage business in the town's downtown, and once there, they learned through witnesses and video that a 59-year old man was attacked by a 32-year old suspect described as not being in the country legally. During that physical exchange, reported police, the older man was able to get a hold of his gun and fired a shot at the suspect, hitting him in the leg.

The TV station reported that the suspect was taken to a hospital and released. Police, in their statement, indicated that based on the information they gathered at the scene, they consider it to be a "clear case of self-

defense," adding that the suspect will face criminal charges.



The Allentown, Pennsylvania Morning Call reported that councilors in the town of Hanover Township, in Lehigh County, voted to make hunting a legal reason for discharging a firearm in the town; current regulations bar firearms discharge except for self-defense and for law enforcement officers.

However, according to the newspaper, gun rights activists in that area have notified the town in a letter that unless the discharge regulations are removed entirely, the town could still be sued under the new state laws. Probably haven't heard the last of this one.



A rural Idaho school district has decided the best way to prevent school violence from occurring on their campuses is to arm some of their employees.

The Associated Press reported that officials in the Garden Valley district, in the mountains north of Boise, have approved the purchase of guns to remain locked inside the only school in the district – one that serves a little under 300 students in grades K-12 - and has trained six employees on how to use the firearms in case of an emergency.

There's good reason why the district went this route – according to the AP, it takes at least 45 minutes for police to reach the district, and officials there didn't have extra funds to hire school security.



South Carolina gun owners are expressing displeasure at potential new gun regulations in Spartanburg County.

According to FOX Carolina TV, a public hearing was held June 15 to gather feedback from residents regarding firearms discharge in the county, feedback that likely will result in a proposed ordinance that would bar it in certain residential areas.

The station reported that many who spoke at the hearing were against potential new regulations; currently, the county has no rules regarding discharge of weapons. According to the council chairman, there is no timetable on when a proposed ordinance would be considered.



Gun rights in the state of Missouri were strengthened with the passage of a pro-gun constitutional amendment in last fall's elections, but the debate is back on the front burner after a recent dust-up between one gun rights supporter and, of all things, the St. Louis Zoo.

The St. Louis Post Dispatch reports the recent episode, pitting the zoo against an out-of-state open carry activist, one which ended with the zoo winning a restraining order against the activist preventing him from openly carrying his firearm on zoo property, has set off a debate over how far local governments and public facilities can go with respect to restrictions on the carrying of guns on their property. That debate is centered around whether state laws are now conflicting as a result of the passage of the amendment.

The court case has yet to be resolved, but gun rights supporters in the state should be paying attention.



**Register  
TODAY!**

**September 25, 26  
and 27, 2015**

**Sheraton Crescent Hotel  
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# **PRESERVE FREEDOM**

**Sponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms  
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**Come meet national gun rights leaders and your fellow grassroots activists at the 30th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC 2015) in Phoenix, Arizona. This is your once-a-year chance to network and get an insider look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year.**

**Past GRPCs have outlined victory plans and made public the latest firearms trends. They allow you a first-hand chance to hear movement leaders--and make your voice heard.**

**This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: city gun bans, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, legal actions, gun show regulation, and state and local activity. We'll preview the 2016 elections, discuss state initiative battles and analyze Right to Keep and Bear Arms court cases.**

**The full roster of GRPC 2015 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan Gottlieb, Joseph Tartaro, Alan Gura, Tom Gresham, Larry Elder, John Lott, Eugene Volokh, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Mark Walters, Emily Miller, Rep. Bob Barr, Rick Patterson, Gene Hoffman, Tim Schmidt, John Lott and many others. Check our websites -- [www.saf.org](http://www.saf.org) or [www.ccrkba.org](http://www.ccrkba.org) for updates.**

## **CONFERENCE and HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF MATERIALS ARE FREE!**

Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, Friday and Saturday evening receptions and morning and afternoon snack breaks. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. To register for the special room rate of \$109 per night, call the Sheraton Crescent Hotel at 1-800-325-3535 and mention GRPC. A tentative agenda will be sent in early September.

## **2015 Gun Rights Policy Conference / FREE**

Yes, I want to attend. I understand that registration, conference materials and luncheon will be provided courtesy of CCRKBA and SAF. All other meals, lodging and airfare are to be paid by attendee.

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