

POINT BLANK

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



**April
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**CITIZENS
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FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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CCRKBA VOWS FIGHT AGAINST FEINSTEIN SEMI-AUTO BAN!

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms threw down the gauntlet, vowing to fight passage of anti-gun Senator Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) bill to ban so-called "assault weapons."

"Instead of banning the most popular firearm in the country," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "we need to ban politicians who assault our rights. We are appalled and disappointed that Sen. Feinstein and her cronies have advanced this measure, which demonizes firearms that are used thousands of times each year to protect lives and property from criminal attack."

CCRKBA has repeatedly argued that the first ban on such firearms, during the Clinton administration starting in 1994, did not prevent crimes like the Columbine High School attack.

Gottlieb noted that FBI crime data says that rifles of any kind are used in only a fraction of violent crimes annually, "yet Democrats on the Judiciary Committee have allowed this legislative travesty to move forward."

According to the most recent data available from the FBI, in 2011, there were only 323 homicides committed with rifles out of more than 12,664 murders, which included 8,583 that were committed with firearms.

"Demonizing certain firearms, and the people who own them, has become a scapegoat strategy by politicians who have allowed a broken justice system to release violent offenders back on the street while disarming their potential victims," Gottlieb said. "By focusing their energy on disarming law-abiding citizens, politicians like Sen. Feinstein are perpetuating a myth that firearms cause crime. That's as foolish as believing that cars cause drunk driving."

Sen. Feinstein has long coveted a ban on semiautomatic rifles. Several years ago, she confessed during an interview with CBS that if she could have mustered the votes, she would have pushed through legislation forcing "Mr. and Mrs. America" to "give them up."

Since the Clinton ban expired in 2004, considerable evidence has shown that the initial ban did not accomplish its goals.

One major difference between Feinstein's bill and the original ban is that her legislation would make the ban permanent. It also bans magazines that hold more than ten cartridges.

Gottlieb said CCRKBA members would be encouraged to contact their senators about Feinstein's bill.

"Public policy and constitutional rights should not be subject to the whims of gun prohibitionists who are quick to exploit the crimes committed by a few crazy people, in order to advance their agenda of public disarmament," he said.

CCRKBA BUSY BATTLING GLOBAL GUN CONTROL

Just before the United Nations once again took up the issue of an Arms Trade Treaty, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms was represented at the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting by Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

The U.N. has been pushing for some sort of global gun control for several years, and CCRKBA has been working behind the scenes with other groups, and was involved in the formation of the International Association for the Protection of Civilian Arms Rights (IAPCAR). This organization was founded with Gottlieb's key involvement and now has groups representing several countries on several continents, including Europe, Australia, North and South America, and Asia.

Gottlieb recalled to *Point Blank* that within hours of being re-elected in November, President Barack Obama rekindled his administration's interest in pushing for a global treaty.

Here in the United States, CCRKBA has been firing up the grassroots, alerting members to stay in touch with their two U.S. Senators.

Particularly disconcerting to gun rights activists was a statement made to the Washington Post by Amnesty International's Michelle A. Ringuette that suggested her organization views personal firearms on the same level as heavy military weapons.

"The...claim that there is such a thing as 'civilian weapons' and that these can and need to be treated differently from military weapons under the Arms Trade Treaty is — to put it politely — the gun lobby's creativity on full display," Ringuette insisted, according to the newspaper. "There is no such distinction. To try to create one would create a loophole that would render the treaty inoperative, as anyone could claim that he or she was in the business of trading

'civilian weapons.'"

It was the same mentality exhibited during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the proposed ban on so-called "assault weapons" by the bill's sponsor, anti-gun California Sen. Dianne Feinstein. In a heated exchange with pro-gun Republican Sen. Ted Cruz from Texas, Sen. Feinstein — defending her ban as having left many guns alone — wondered aloud, "Is this not enough for the people of the United States? Do they need a bazooka?"

CCRKBA STAYS BUSY ON THE ROAD

Battling gun grabbers and working with gun rights organizations all over the map has been keeping officials with the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms busy over the past several weeks.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, following his attendance at the World Forum for the Preservation of Shooting Sports, had speaking engagements with the Gun Owners Action League of Massachusetts and the Illinois State Rifle Association on calendar.

In March, Gottlieb addressed the Pacific County, Wash., Republicans for their "Lincoln Day" gathering.

Also in late March, CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman traveled to Klickitat County, where he appeared at a Second Amendment Town Hall meeting in Centerville. The event was sponsored by the Klickitat County Republicans.

Gottlieb was scheduled to be the speaker at the Lincoln Day Republican Party gathering in Portland, Ore., on April 12.



POINT BLANK

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

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WA BACKGROUND CHECK BILL BLOCKED

A so-called “universal background check” bill in Washington State that had been stripped of a major tenet suggested by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms failed, and the process provides a lesson in political maneuvering.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb had testified against House Bill 1588 at the Washington State capitol in Olympia in February. However, immediately following the hearing, he was approached by one of the key sponsors for input.

Gottlieb’s response was to place several conditions on the measure that would have benefitted Evergreen State gun owners, including one that would have been a huge victory: Abolition of the state’s long-standing pistol registry. Other conditions would have exempted concealed pistol license holders – of which there are more than 405,000 in Washington – along with transactions and gifts or bequests to family members, and for members of gun show organizations who have already gone through a background check to join the organization.

Washington does not have gun registration per se, but every new handgun retail purchase involves the filing of a form with the Department of Licensing. No such form exists for rifle or shotgun purchases, and the pistol registry is actually of questionable value, according to some law enforcement sources.

However, a lobbying group for sheriffs and police chiefs opposed that tenet, and to mollify them, the registry language was removed. Then, to further solidify support from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, an

exemption from background checks for law enforcement officers was added to the bill.

The result was a measure that Gottlieb said was “badly flawed.”

There was also an attempt to turn the measure into a referendum and place it on the November ballot, but that proposal garnered more opposition than support.

Under existing federal law, private transactions are legal without background checks.

It’s what happens next that has everyone’s attention in the Evergreen State firearms community. A fledgling gun control group calling itself the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility has hinted at running a citizen initiative to force a background check, which would be legal under the state constitution.

The last time a gun control measure was put on the ballot was in 1997

when Washington Ceasefire placed Initiative 676, a far-reaching gun control package, before voters. It failed 71-29 percent and CCRKBA was involved in that historic battle.

Depending upon how such an initiative is worded, it could also have trouble. CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman recalled that I-676 was “disguised as a trigger lock measure.”

“In reality,” he said, “it was Draconian scheme with licensing and registration, and would have been the worst gun law in the United States. It took a Herculean education effort by a coalition of gun rights organizations to turn that measure around.”

Overreach has always been the Achilles’ heel for anti-gunners, he noted. They reach too far for too much and skeptical voters slap them back.

PLAN NOW FOR GUN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON

It’s not too early to start planning for this year’s Gun Rights Policy Conference, scheduled Sept. 27-29 at the Marriott Hotel Houston Airport.

Cosponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation, this annual event brings together many of the leading gun rights advocates in the country.

This year’s conference theme is “Fight to Win,” noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

The preliminary agenda for this year’s event includes panel discussions about proposed bans on semiautomatic sporting rifles and their magazines, “smart gun” technology, federal and state legislative threats, policies established by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, concealed carry, gun show regulation, international and UN activities and recent Second Amendment-related court cases.

The full roster of speakers is not yet available, but the list typically includes Gottlieb, SAF President Joseph Tartaro, CCRKBA Legislative Director Joe Waldron, and Hawaii State Sen. Sam Slom.

'SHAME ON YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, NOT THE COUNTRY,' SAYS CCRKBA

President Barack Obama told White House reporters that the nation should be ashamed if it has forgotten the Newtown tragedy, but the real shame is that the president and other anti-gunners have exploited that crime to push a gun control agenda that has nothing to do with Sandy Hook, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said.

The president is putting the full force of the White House behind gun control measures, and he took the opportunity to tell the nation "Shame on us if we've forgotten" the Dec. 14 outrage.

"Shame on you, Mister President," declared CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "for trying to capitalize on that tragedy to push an anti-gun

agenda that has been on your wish list since before you took office.

"We haven't forgotten Sandy Hook," he continued, "nor have we forgotten that during the first weeks of your administration, Eric Holder floated trial balloons about renewing and expanding the ban on modern sporting rifles. We also haven't forgotten that your administration tried to exploit the Fast and Furious debacle to expand gun regulations in the Southwest. We haven't forgotten that you extended executive privilege to thousands of documents subpoenaed by Congress that are related to that disgraceful operation.

"The shame is on your administration and your allies on Capitol Hill and in the gun prohibition lobby for pandering

a tried-and-failed strategy of gun bans and back door registration schemes as a panacea to crime," Gottlieb stated. "Shame on you for your 'we've got to do something' harangue and then admitting that it will not prevent further violent crimes.

"For Barack Obama to suggest that the nation should be ashamed for not blindly submitting to his gun grabbing political agenda is not simply arrogant, it's absurd," Gottlieb remarked. "His attempt to create national guilt because millions of citizens refuse to be subservient to his political desires sounds more like the rant of a spoiled emperor than a sensible president."

SENATE VOTE ON ROLE OF UN TREATY AND RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

On March 25, 2013, the U.S. Senate voted 53 to 46 on an Amendment offered by Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) that affirmed that no treaty would supersede the U.S. Constitution. The vote came just days before the United Nations concluded the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.

In the following paragraph is a list of the Senators who voted against the Amendment. If your senator is on this list, please contact his/her office and let them know that our Second Amendment rights always come first. If they aren't on this list, then let them know you appreciate their acknowledgement of your individual Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Baldwin (D-WI), Baucus (D-MT), Bennet (D-CO), Blumenthal (D-

CT), Boxer (D-CA), Brown (D-OH), Cantwell (D-WA), Cardin (D-MD), Carper (D-DE), Casey (D-PA), Coons (D-DE), Cowan (D-MA), Durbin (D-IL), Feinstein (D-CA), Franken (D-MN), Gillibrand (D-NY), Harkin (D-IA), Hirono (D-HI), Johnson (D-SD), Kaine (D-VA), King (I-ME), Klobuchar (D-MN), Landrieu (D-LA), Leahy (D-VT), Levin (D-MI), McCaskill (D-MO), Menendez (D-NJ), Merkley (D-OR), Mikulski (D-MD), Murphy (D-CT), Murray (D-WA), Nelson (D-FL), Reed (D-RI), Reid (D-NV), Rockefeller (D-WV), Sanders (I-VT), Schatz (D-HI), Shaheen (D-NH), Stabenow (D-MI), Udall (D-CO), Udall (D-NM), Warner (D-VA), Warren (D-MA), Whitehouse (D-RI), Wyden (D-OR)

The original Arms Trade Treaty nego-

tiations had ended in July 2012 with no agreement and the UN General Assembly resurrected the concept for one more set of negotiations March 18-28. The Treaty sought regulation on the international arms trade and the civilian right to firearms ownership and the concept of self-defense were not acknowledged in the final draft. The negotiation process required consensus—all states had to agree to the terms. Syria, Iran and Pakistan did not agree. The Treaty was not ratified on the final vote on March 28. As Point Blank goes to press, a vote is scheduled to take place in early April on the proposed Arms Trade Treaty in the General Assembly of the UN where it is expected to be adopted.

FBI CRIME REPORT INCLUDES DATA CCRKBA MEMBERS CAN USE

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report contains useful and myth-busting data that gun rights activists can utilize when they write letters to the editor or state lawmakers, or when they testify at public hearings, noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

The most recent data is for 2011, and may be found at www.fbi.gov, Gottlieb said.

Among the statistics:

- In 2011, there were a total of 12,664 murders, but only about 75 percent (8,583) were committed with firearms of any kind, and fewer than half (6,220) were committed with handguns.
- Rifles were used in a fraction of those crimes. Only 323 cases of confirmed rifle use were reported,

and that includes all kinds of rifles, not just modern semiautomatic sporting rifles.

- More people were beaten or stomped to death (bare hands, feet) than were killed with both rifles and shotguns, a total of 728 fatally beaten opposed to 679 killed with rifles and shotguns. Shotguns accounted for 356 slayings.

- Knives or other "cutting instruments" were used in 1,694 slayings.

- For the fifth year in a row, murders declined in 2011. In 2007, there were 14,916 slayings, while in 2008, 14,224 murders were reported. In 2009, there were 13,752 murders and the number fell to 13,164 in 2010.

Recently, anti-gun New York

Mayor Michael Bloomberg even acknowledged to CNN that he is aware rifles are used in a fraction of homicides, but he still erroneously insisted that "This year in America, 12,000 people will be killed with handguns. Four hundred people will be killed with assault weapons or high capacity magazines."

"The FBI data clearly demonstrates that Mayor Bloomberg is doing what anti-gunners typically do," Gottlieb said. "He's lumping all murders together as having been committed with firearms and that is simply not true."

This new data shows the rhetoric from anti-gunners is based on false premises and "broad brush" data misrepresentation.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

In early March, three bills passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee that, if enacted into law, will have a major impact on gun owners. S. 54, by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), is titled the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2013; S. 150 by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) is the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013; and S. 374 by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) is the Fix Gun Checks Act of 2013.

S. 54 and S. 374 have relatively innocuous-sounding titles that would appear to deserve support, but titles, like appearances, can be deceiving. Both bills contain sections that seriously threaten law-abiding gun owners. S. 150 is more obvious in its intent, but even there, the title doesn't tell the whole story. S. 150 also bans any detachable magazine with a capacity of more than ten rounds of ammunition.

In the 2014 mid-term elections, Democrats hold 20 of the 33 Senate seats open or up for reelection, with only 13 Republicans at risk. Many of these Democrat seats are in western or southern states with strong pro-gun traditions, so easy passage of major gun control legislation, even in the Senate, is by no means guaranteed. Hopefully these bills will remain bottled up in the Senate by the time you receive this issue of Point Blank, but the possibility exists that some or all may have been sent to the House of Representatives.

Now is the time to contact your Senators AND your Representative and politely but firmly ask that they oppose passage of any of these bills. None would have any real impact on crime, but would harm gun owners.

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.

COBURN EARNS DEFENDER RECOGNITION!

U.S. Senator Tom Coburn has, as a cornerstone to his career, been a stalwart when it comes to gun rights and the Second Amendment, so when he accepted the invitation to join the national advisory council for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Chairman Alan Gottlieb was delighted.

"American gun owners know Tom Coburn as a devoted defender of the Second Amendment, and his addition to our National Advisory Council can only be seen as a considerable asset in our efforts to protect the right to keep and bear arms," Gottlieb stated. "His ability to recognize these attempted back door erosions of gun rights is exactly what makes his addition to our advisory council so important at this moment in history."

A former businessman, Sen. Coburn graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1970 with a degree in accounting. After operating and growing a successful

business, he returned to college to become a physician, graduating from the University of Oklahoma Medical School in 1983, where he was class president. He interned as a general surgeon at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City, and did a family practice residency at the University of Arkansas.

Recently, the senator made headlines when he walked away from an invasive background check measure proposed by anti-gun Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY). He raised serious concerns about proposed background check legislation that could establish a de facto gun registration system. The Senate Judiciary Committee passed the measure on a strict 10-8 party line vote, but it may not fare as well before the entire Senate.

"Tom Coburn is smart, attentive to details and he is not afraid to ask the tough questions on Capitol Hill," Gottlieb observed. "That's the kind of fellow whose advice on Second Amendment issues might easily be

considered the gold standard."

Prior to serving in the U.S. Senate, Coburn served three terms in the House of Representatives, stepping down in 2001 to fulfill his promise of self-imposed term limits. He was elected to the Senate in 2004. He and his wife, Carolyn, also a graduate of Oklahoma State University, have been married since 1968. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

"CCRKBA is proud to welcome Sen. Coburn to our advisory council," Gottlieb noted. "With anti-gun rhetoric spreading like an epidemic, Tom Coburn's experience and skill on Capitol Hill is strong medicine.

"Likewise," he added, "we are fortunate to have such a Second Amendment champion on Capitol Hill. His public service has been highlighted by a series of efforts to protect the right to keep and bear arms, and that's why he is so deserving of recognition as the Gun Rights Defender of the month."

CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK PROSECUTED FEWEST GUN CRIMES

Alan Gottlieb, Chairman of CCRKBA asked, "What do Rahm Emanuel, Antonio Villaraigosa and Michael Bloomberg have in common?"

The answer is they are mayors of the three largest cities in the U.S., have armed guards and are vocally and vociferously anti-gun.

Mayor Bloomberg started Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Chicago's Emanuel and Los Angeles' Villaraigosa

are proud members of this group.

While these cities have some of the most restrictive gun rights laws in the country at the same time, they have some of the worst crime.

In 2012 2,670 people were shot in Chicago and 535 died.

And according to a new report from Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), these three men are also the elected leaders of the cities where

federal gun law enforcement is the worst.

According to the TRAC analysis of the federal data, the Eastern District of New York where New York city is located, Central California, Los Angeles home district and Northern Illinois, Chicago's federal court circuit, these three cities ranked 88th, 89th and 90th out of ninety districts in prosecutions of federal weapons crimes on a per capita basis.



QUICK SHOTS

From the only cops should have guns file comes this report out of Florida, where the career of one sheriff's deputy has abruptly come to a halt after he was found to have pulled a gun on a fellow deputy.

WTSP-TV in Tampa reported that an internal review concluded that Manatee County Sheriff's Captain Ron Couch had violated regulations when he drew his service weapon at the other deputy, who had stopped to visit. According to the TV station, while the captain had no criminal charges filed against him, he decided to leave the force anyway.



Recent gun shows in a few states saw significant increases in attendance as gun owners continue to buy firearms and ammunition at high rates.

According to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, officials at the Del Mar, CA, fairgrounds estimated several thousand folks showed up for a huge gun show there March 9, and news stories from Wisconsin and Kansas among other places indicated brisk attendance with the *Pratt (KS) Tribune* reporting a show in that town that same weekend attracted so much business that some vendors reported selling out of their merchandise.



Lawmakers in Utah recently passed a bill which would enhance concealed carry rights there.

The *Associated Press* reported three-fourths of the state's Senate

voted March 13 to approve the legislation, which eliminates concealed carry permits for those who carry their firearms unloaded; if one wanted to conceal a loaded weapon they would still need a permit.

The measure was sent to the governor's desk to await his signature.



The Oklahoma state House recently passed a bill allowing for armed teachers in schools.

The bill, known as the "Special Reserve School Resource Officer Act," would allow public school districts in the state to permit teachers to get paid training in order to carry guns while on campus. Some Democrat legislators raised concerns that the amount of actual class time for teachers was too little.

The state's Senate was considering the bill at press time.



Three pro-gun bills passed out of the Kansas state House recently.

The *Associated Press* reported the bills, all passed with strong majorities and headed to the state Senate.

One of the bills, according to the AP, would allow local school districts and colleges the ability to allow certain employees carry concealed on campus. A second bill would allow concealed carry permit holders to carry their weapons at more government facilities, and the third prohibits new federal regulation of the state's firearms industry.



Gun owners in Tennessee now can pack their firearms while they are out on the road.

The *Nashville Tennessean* reported he state's governor, Bill Haslam, signed a bill allowing state concealed carry permit holders carry their guns while they are in their vehicles, but they must keep their weapons locked up in their cars if they are parked.

The bill, SB 142, called the "guns-in-trunks" bill, had been a contentious issue pitting state gun rights supporters against the business community, who argued against the legislation.



A youth sports organization in Illinois has found itself at the center of controversy over their raffle of an AR-15 rifle.

ABC News reported the Atwood-Hammond Little League youth baseball program raffled off the gun with the help of a local armory, and within the first couple of days of ticket sales, the league had raised a couple thousand dollars. Compare that to their previous raffle, which according to ABC, only raised \$10, not enough these days to buy even one batting helmet.

Tickets cost \$20 each, and entrants have to have an Illinois FOID card, which, according to the league's commissioner, every board member has in their possession.

