



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



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CCRKBA BLASTS KENNEDY-CORZINE BILL

A far-reaching anti-gun measure introduced in the Senate by Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ) and in the House of Representatives by Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI) has drawn fire from the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Although called by Kennedy and Corzine the Firearms Safety and Consumer Protection Act, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, asserted that the legislation is designed to demolish the firearms industry.

"The bill, if ever enacted into law, would in effect so transform the entire firearms industry that it would become completely dominated by federal bureaucrats," Snyder charged. "The individual Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms would no longer exist. The ability or inability of a law-abiding American citizen to own or use a gun would be something determined by fiat of Washington federal bureaucrats."

The bill, S. 1224 in the Senate and H.R. 2403 in the House, was referred respectively to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. The proposal would give the Department of Justice authority to set minimum safety standards for the manufacture, design and distribution of firearms, issue recalls and warnings, collect data on gun-related death and injury, and limit the sale of products when no other remedy is sufficient.

CCRKBA and other gun rights groups noted that firearms already are subject to many regulations. In fact, probably no other product is as heavily regulated as firearms. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is the government agency responsible for enforcing federal laws and regulations relating to firearms and explosives.

"The Kennedy-Corzine bill," said Snyder, "is the latest in a long line of gun grabber attempts to use the safety issue as a wedge to give the government more and more authority over the activities of law-abiding American citizens."

Gary Mehalik of the National Shooting Sports Foundation said the bill seeks to restrict run rights.

"The ulterior motive here, as it has been in the past, is for the restriction on firearm rights under the false premise to increase safety," Mehalik stated. "The best way to ensure safety of the firearm is to have a safe human operator."

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) is a co-sponsor of S. 1224. Co-sponsors of H.R. 2403 include Reps. Barney Frank and Marty Meehan of Massachusetts, James R. Langevin of Rhode Island, Tom Lantos and Hilda L. Solis of California, Edolphus Towns of New York, and Chris Van Hollen, Jr. of Maryland.

'INSTANT' BECOMING INSTANT?

Is the instant background check really becoming instant?

The U.S. Justice Department reported in late May that nine out of 10 gun purchases now are subject to instant FBI criminal background checks, which the Associated Press notes is "a marked improvement over the response rate from two years ago."

Only about nine percent of transactions now face delays, according to the report, due primarily to technology improvements that have reduced the rate of false matches in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The immediate response rate rose from a 71 percent average in early 2001 to 91 percent last year.

This means that most gun dealers now can get information immediately over the phone or via computer about whether a prospective firearm purchaser is a convicted felon or is prohibited from buying a firearm.

Previously, many dealers had to wait for an FBI agent to review records and make a final determination. Dealers are permitted to sell the gun if no answer is received in three days. Sometimes, according to the report, this requires federal agents to attempt to retrieve the firearm if a denial later arrives.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said the improvements "are helping make our country safer by barring access to firearms by felons, illegal aliens and others who cannot legally own guns."

Some perennial gun grabbers, such as Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), say the laws still are inadequate to keep guns away from terrorists and other criminals. They persist in their commitment to promote additional federal regulation of gun shows.

Lautenberg says the Bush Administration "puts the special interest gun lobby first and the safety of the public second."

Peter Hamm of the Brady Center to Prevent Handgun Violence (formerly Handgun Control, Inc.), said that, "speed should not be a barometer for success with this background check. These statistics show the system is getting faster, not smarter."

Justice Department officials say they are working with states to improve the accuracy of criminal history records. They say also that more State Department and FBI terrorist databases are being integrated into the NICS system.

The report shows that NICS, part of a 10-year-old gun law, combined with state background check systems, has processed more than 36 million background checks, with about 563,000 denials.

The combined federal and state system processed 8.9 million background checks in 2001, with 125,000 denials of permission to purchase a gun. In 2002, the numbers were 8.4 million checks and 121,000 denials.

The most frequent reason a person is denied the ability to purchase legally a gun is a felony criminal history, covering 58 percent of all federal denials. Other reasons are criminal misdemeanor domestic violence convictions, domestic violence restraining orders, having a dishonorable military discharge, being an illegal alien or being a fugitive from justice.

Almost 2,400 licensed gun dealers use a computer "E-Check" system to check purchaser backgrounds.

About 37 percent of total gun transactions involve pawn shops, with 63 percent involving retail businesses.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was asked

to retrieve 3,429 weapons that should not have been sold, out of more than 4.2 million background checks done by NICS in 2002. That is 736 below the 2001 number.

The FBI handles all background checks for 31 states and does long gun checks for another 10 states. Fourteen states do all of their own background checks, with 10 doing only the handgun checks.



POINT BLANK

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

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THE POLITICS OF THE SEMIAUTOMATIC BAN

By John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director

"This issue is never going to go away," declared a spokesman for the gun control lobby recently in discussing proposals to extend the federal ban on certain semiautomatic firearms beyond its scheduled sunset next year.

Indeed, the issue is a major issue swirling around Capitol Hill these days and probably will continue to be a major issue for the rest of this year and at least well into 2004.

There are a number of elements involved in the controversy.

The ban on the manufacture and importation specifically of 19 models of semiautomatic firearms, others that meet certain criteria, and ammunition feeding devices holding more than 10 rounds was enacted in 1994 with a provision unsetting the ban in September 2004. That means the ban evaporates, or sunsets, in September of next year unless Congress reenacts the ban and the President signs it.

Republicans in Congress, who now control both houses there, generally seem to oppose the extension of the ban. Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas, for instance, the House Majority Leader, has stated that the House of Representatives simply would let the ban expire next year.

Matters became a little confused, though, when Rep. J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois, the Speaker of the House, said that he was "not ready to make that decision."

Further confusing the matter is the word from the White House.

In 2000, during the presidential campaign, candidate George W. Bush, generally considered very supportive of Second Amendment rights, said he supported the current ban. Bush's comments came during a campaign in which certain elements of the pro-gun movement, so enthu-

siastic regarding a potential Bush presidency, actually stated that such a presidency would give the pro-gun movement a seat in "the Oval Office." Some observers believe that Bush's initial 2000 comments came, at least in part, in response to such comments, to prevent his potential presidency from being thought of as a "tool" of "the gun lobby."

In the spring of this year, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, with regard to the ban, that "the President supports the current law, and he supports reauthorization of the current law."

When asked if President Bush would use his influence to push for an extension of the ban, presidential press secretary Ari Fleischer responded, "These are matters that the House has to work out, of course, by listening to the will of its members."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the Democrat House Minority Leader, wants to extend the ban, and expand it.

"The President has announced that he supports the assault ban, and it would be helpful if he used his good offices to do that," she said. "I don't know whether he intends to do it or not."

Added Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, "if the President wants the assault-weapons ban to be renewed, it will be renewed. Don't let him talk the talk but not walk the walk."

Democrats could try to make the ban a hot-button issue again, and they could file a discharge petition to get a vote on the floor.

Bills to extend the ban have been introduced in both the House and the Senate, H.R. 2038, by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) in the House, and S. 1034, by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), in the Senate.

Rep. Pelosi has acknowledged that, if a vote came to the floor, her party "would probably lose some votes. It won't be something that we would be whipping." She said her party might revisit the matter "when the issue is ripe."

Gun control groups, meanwhile, are trying to pressure the Democrats into making the ban extension into a hot button issue.

"This issue is never going to go away," vowed Blaine Rummel of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

Another gun grabbing spokesman, Matt Bennett of Americans for Gun Safety, acknowledged that, "no one is particularly focused on this. There is no hook for this issue quite yet. But when the public realizes that unless Congress acts, that 'street sweepers' and Tec-9s will hit the streets again, it will become hot again."

Rummel said that, "there isn't a shred of evidence that says gun control is a political loser. It hasn't cost a candidate a political race anywhere."

According to James G. Lakely, reporting in *The Washington Times*, Rummel said "The Democrats ran away from gun safety in the 2002 elections, and look where it got them. Whoever is advising them on gun control should be shot."

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CCRKBA LAUDS EFFORT TO BALANCE ANTI-GUN MEDIA

Big media bias against private gun ownership was the subject of a recent forum in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI).

Providing the centerpiece for the forum was the book, *The Bias Against Guns*, by John R. Lott, Jr., published by Regnery Publishing, Inc. Now an AEI resident scholar, Lott is well known for his previous scholarly work in the area of firearms and gun control, especially for the book, *More Guns Less Crime*, published by the University of Chicago Press. Lott holds a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award.

Joining Lott on the panel were moderator Eugene Kantorovich, an assistant professor at the George Mason University Law School; Paul Waldman, associate director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania; and Carlisle E. Moody, professor of economics and chair of the Economics Department at the College of William and Mary. Welcoming all to the forum was AEI President Christopher DeMuth.

"Guns can make it easier for bad things to happen," said Lott, "but guns can also make it easier for people to protect themselves and prevent bad things from happening, and I think the question that concerns all of us is what's the net effect that it has.

"This new book," he continued, "tries to add to that discussion on a range of issues from how guns are used to commit terrorist acts to stopping terrorist acts to the benefits and risks of having guns in the home to looking at gun shows and so-called assault weapon bans, among other things."

Lott did extensive research on the

content of media reporting of the use of firearms both in crime and to stop crime.

"Few people who watch the news will obtain an accurate perspective of how guns are used by Americans," Lott reported. "For example, while Americans use guns to stop crime at least four and a half times more frequently than to commit crime, the morning and evening national news broadcasts on ABC, CBS, and NBC during 2001 had about 19,000 words on gun crimes and zero words on cases where citizens have used guns to stop crime. The print media is little better. *The New York Times* had almost 51,000 words of contemporaneous gun crime stories and only one story of 163 words on a crime that was stopped with a gun by a retired police officer."

The book also shows that government research concentrates on only the costs of guns and completely ignores the benefits. While the government annually releases a list of the top 10 guns used in crime, there is never a list of the top 10 guns used

to stop crimes.

Kantorovich noted that, "The first half of the book presents the kind of evidence that we saw about media stories and journalistic coverage of guns. The second half presents econometric evidence about the impact of gun regulations on gun ownership, gun crime and so forth."

Moody analyzed Lott's work from a scholarly perspective. He said Lott "makes the data available, which means he is probably not cheating."

Following the forum, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder congratulated the group for its efforts to reduce the spin.

"AEI has rendered a genuine public service in providing the framework for this discussion," Snyder said. "In recent years, nothing may have contributed more to some public misconceptions about guns and gun ownership than media bias. Although we have a long way to go, this forum is a great step in that direction."

CCRKBA HAILS LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

It's been a successful year for the right to keep and bear arms at the state level, noted CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron, who said that legislative strides have been nothing short of remarkable, even considering that the political pendulum appears to have been swinging back from the far left in terms of gun rights.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence recently noted in a press release—in which the anti-gun group blasted Democrat presidential hopeful Howard Dean for his gun policies—that, “The only way to crack down on illegal gun sales is with strong federal gun laws that apply to all states.”

That's a surprising turnaround for gun control extremists, who had turned some of their attention away from Congress when Republicans took control to concentrate on state legislatures. Evidently, judging from their failures to stop progressive gun law reforms in many states, they didn't fare too well in state capitols.

Let's examine some of the more significant victories gun owners can

count:

Alaska recently passed legislation that allows citizens to carry concealed handguns without the necessity of obtaining a concealed pistol license. Republican Gov. Frank Murkowski signed the measure. The state will continue issuing licenses to residents who may travel out of state so that their license will be recognized by other states.

Minnesota Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty probably set a legislative speed record when he signed that state's major concealed carry law reform just hours after it was passed out of the legislature. Henceforth, Minnesota will operate under a “shall-issue” system, replacing the state's discretionary issue system.

Colorado also reformed its concealed carry statute to a “shall-issue” requirement, setting off a wave of howls from anti-gunners in Denver, who promised to challenge the law signed by Republican Gov. Bill Owens.

New Mexico passed concealed carry legislation, with freshman

Democrat Gov. Bill Richardson guiding the bill through his Legislature. A previous CCW law had been declared unconstitutional, but Richardson, a veteran of the Clinton administration, supported the idea so lawmakers took another crack at it, cleaned up the problems and now New Mexicans will be able to better defend themselves.

Virginia Gov. Mark Warner—against the protests of anti-gunners—signed into law a reform bill that expanded state pre-emption and eliminated a checkerboard of inconsistent local carry laws. Warner, another Democrat who campaigned as a pro-gunner, earned accolades from CCRKBA earlier this year when he inked the bill. Earlier this year, Warner also ordered the removal of signs erroneously prohibiting licensed concealed carry at state parks.

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, another Democrat, not only signed legislation making Tennessee the eighth “universal recognition” state that honors all other states' CPLs, he also signed a bill that allows CPL holders to renew their licenses up to six months after they have expired, with no penalties.

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, yet another Democrat, approved legislation expanding the Grand Canyon State's concealed carry reciprocity provisions.

Oklahoma becomes another state with universal CPL recognition as of July 1, thanks to the signature of Democrat Gov. Brad Henry.

North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley signed a bill providing for simple reciprocity between his state, and other states that agree to honor North Carolina CPLs.

CCRKBA HONORS MICHIGAN REP. SUE TABOR

She has taken up wild turkey hunting with a passion, has been a staunch gun rights advocate in the Great Lakes State, and this month CCRKBA recognizes the accomplishments of State Rep. Sue Tabor (R-71st District) by naming her the Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

Rep. Tabor has been featured in *Women & Guns* magazine and *Gun Week*, and is serving her third and final term in the Michigan House of Representatives. She has been a dauntless campaigner to legalize mourning dove hunting in Michigan, and is chair of the House Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Committee.

Nominated for this month's award by CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman, Rep. Tabor has a lengthy history in Michigan politics. She has served on several House

committees, previously worked for former House Republican Leader Ken Sikkema as a constituent assistant, and she was named Legislator of the Year by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs in 2000 and by the Association for Children's Mental Health in 2001.

Born and raised in the Lansing area, Tabor and her husband, Doug, have two sons, Aaron and David. They reside in Delta Township. She is an active member of the Hills Lutheran Church in Lansing and is involved in Lutherans for Life.

She told *Point Blank*, "I truly believe that the majority of U.S. citizens are law-abiding people and still want to 'do the right thing.' No tragedy, no crime, no crisis will ever convince me otherwise. Law-abiding people obey the law. It's as simple as that. These people conduct themselves

in a responsible manner each and every day. Millions of gun owners are among them. They are moms and dads, husbands and wives, sons and daughters. They are the people we do business with at the dry cleaners and the convenience stores. They are teachers, coaches, health care workers, and bus drivers. Chances are one of them brought you your coffee this morning at the local restaurant or delivered your mail today. They raise kids who turn out to be just like their parents – law-abiding productive citizens."

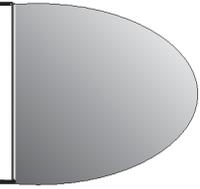
Rep. Tabor lamented that, "most, if not all of our current firearm laws were made because of a small population of people who chose to break the law and became criminals."

She blamed many of today's anti-gun laws on "knee jerk reaction" to crimes by lawmakers who believe they must be seen as "doing something" by their constituents.

"In their haste to 'put the blame' on something other than the person who committed the crime in the first place," Tabor observed, "they end up passing laws which erode away yet another small piece of our constitutional rights – our freedom."

Whether it's on the hunting front, where Tabor continues to press for legal mourning dove hunting, or on the gun rights frontier, this hard-working lawmaker has made her mark. There seems little doubt that Tabor will continue the fight, wherever her personal and political careers take her.

"As an ordinary citizen," she said, "I work behind the front line. My mission is to change one anti-gun mind at a time. I will make myself a role model for other women. I will teach my own children what I know. Freedom is worth the price, and people are worth fighting for."



1994 law banning the importation and manufacture of certain semiautomatic firearms and the controversy over whether or not to extend the ban beyond its scheduled sunset next year. “Although the 1994 ban imposed limits on semiautomatic firearms,” Bluey reported, “manufacturers successfully adapted to the law to maintain their profitability, firearms experts told CNSNews.com. ‘As an overall industry, (the ban) didn’t have that much of an effect one way or the other,’ said Andrew Molchan, publisher and editor of the *American Firearms Industry*, which tracks production and sales of firearms. Molchan speculated that a handful of smaller companies might have suffered as a result, but most large manufacturers did just fine financially.” Molchan is a past CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award recipient.

The so-called Freedom States Alliance (FSA), designating itself “a coalition of state gun violence prevention groups from across the country,” in late May announced strong support for the proposed Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Act of 2003, H.R. 2038, introduced recently by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) with a host of co-sponsors. The bill not only would make the 1994 semiautomatic gun ban permanent but would impose further restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms. Andy Pelosi, an FSA member and Executive Director of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, said that, “the existing ban cries out for strengthening. Most of the assault weapons banned in 1994

are back on the market in slightly modified form – entirely legal under existing law.”

According to a CNSNews.com internet poll, 78 percent of the respondents answered “No” when asked if Congress should extend the assault weapons ban. That was 21,330 votes cast the weekend of May 16 – May 18. Only 6,104, or 22 percent, said “Yes.”

In Canada, Nova Scotia joined the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan in saying it won’t enforce the rules surrounding the new and controversial federal gun registry. Nova Scotia Justice Minister Jamie Muir said last month he will tell the province’s prosecutors to forward to their federal counterparts all charges against people who have not registered their rifles or shotguns. “It’s their law,” he said at a news conference. “Let them enforce it. People in Nova Scotia, by and large, have found that this particular requirement of long gun registration was unnecessary. It was a political mistake and a boondoggle. It cost outrageous amounts of money. If they’re talking about public safety, the money could be better expended in so many ways.”

Pro-gun activists from around the country will converge on Houston, Texas for the 18th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference the weekend of Sept. 26 - 28. They will meet at the George Bush International Airport Marriott Hotel to compare notes on the gun rights movement in their local communities, and to learn about the future of the movement to secure our freedoms. CCRKBA cosponsors the event with the Second Amendment Foundation. “Be there to celebrate the major victories we’ve had in extending the right to carry,” says CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb.

Some world leaders at the G8 summit meeting last month suggested levying a global tax on arms sales including, at the suggestion of French President Jacques Chirac, a tax on firearm purchases by individuals. In a speech at the annual meeting of the “Group of Eight,” or G8, Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva promoted the gun sales tax scheme whereby the world’s wealthiest nations could fund efforts to eliminate world hunger, reported Bloomberg News. The “Group of Eight” includes the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan and Russia. Calling the Brazilian leader’s proposal “forceful and convincing,” Chirac was reluctant to support a levy on gun manufacturers in France and elsewhere, but suggested a global tax on firearm purchases made by individuals, according to the report.

Gun manufacturers, reports Robert B. Bluey of the Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com), “have been largely silent” on the

