



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

# CCRKBA BATTLES SEMI BAN EXTENSION



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**IN THIS ISSUE**

Semi Auto Extension	1
Lautenburg	2
Ballistic Fingerprinting	3
City Update	4
State Update	5
Citizen Action Project	4-5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

With the Clinton semiautomatic firearm ban scheduled to sunset in September 2004 unless reauthorized by Congress, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is battling efforts on Capitol Hill to renew and expand the legislation.

Anti-gunners in both the Senate and House filed bills that would continue the ban and make it permanent, and expand its scope. However, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder said that the ban, enacted in September 1994, "has been virtually useless as a crime prevention measure, as we predicted it would be."

"It has amounted to no more than a federal infringement on the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms," Snyder asserted. "We intend to fight the proposed extension, and we urge law-abiding American gun owners to write their two U.S. Senators and their U.S. Representative and urge them to oppose the extension."

The current law, signed by former President Bill Clinton, bans the manufacture and importation specifically of 19 models of semiautomatic firearms, others that meet certain criteria, and ammunition feeding devices capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. Passage of that legislation, along with the Brady handgun law a year earlier, so enraged gun owners that they descended on the polls in November 1994 and threw out over 50 anti-gun Democrats, shifting control of Congress to the Republican Party for the first time in a generation.

A Senate proposal sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) would reenact the ban. Its original cosponsors are Sens. Barbara Boxer, also of California, Lincoln D. Chafee and Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, James M. Jeffords of Vermont, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, and Charles E. Schumer of New York. All but Independent Jeffords are Democrats.

The House version, H.R. 2038, by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), would reenact the ban and add to the list of specifically prohibited firearms.

Contact your U.S. Representative and your two U.S. Senators. Representatives may be reached by writing them at House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, and Senators by writing them at U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Contact President George W. Bush at The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

**CITIZENS  
COMMITTEE  
FOR THE RIGHT  
TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**  
*(a non-profit corporation)*  
National Headquarters:  
12500 N.E. Tenth Place  
Bellevue, Washington 98005  
  
Capitol Hill Office:  
1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20005

# CCRKBA RIPS LATEST LAUTENBERG MEASURE

A new anti-gun proposal advanced by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) attempts to couple gun control to homeland security and terrorism fears.

"Lautenberg and company really are incorrigible in their blind hatred of the individual right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder.

"Obviously frustrated in their desire and repeated attempts over the years to eviscerate or eliminate this basic American right," he continued, "they're now grasping at straws, straws dripping with gun-hate venom, in an attempt to advance their cause. Rest assured that we will be battling on Capitol Hill against this latest proposed legislative monstrosity."

The bill, S. 969, would tie firearm transfers to the nation's terror alert system. Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, its co-sponsors include Sens. Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ), Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), and Jack Reed (D-RI).

Under S. 969, which Lautenberg calls the Homeland Security Gun Safety Act of 2003, gun owner protections under laws that regulate the transfer of firearms could be suspended as long as the terror alert level is above Code Green, or the lowest level. The country has been above Code Green since the alert system was developed and put in place.

Among the laws that would be suspended under S. 969 are those that limit law enforcement to three days for completing background checks on firearm purchasers, as well as the law that requires destruction of records for anyone whose purchase is approved. Lautenberg claimed the

proposal would close "loopholes" in gun laws "that allow terrorists to access weapons and explosives inside our borders."

He said that, "as our government confiscates toenail scissors at airports, secures power plants, and increases domestic surveillance, we're ignoring the most obvious threat that's out there, and that is the ease in (sic) which terrorists can access weapons in virtually any town across the country."

Snyder said the proposal, if adopted, would allow law enforcement agencies to block all gun sales in their jurisdictions by simply refusing to complete background checks. S. 969 would allow unlimited, unannounced inspections of gun dealers by federal agents. Because of past abuses, federal authorities currently are limited to one unannounced inspection a year. Inspections by local authorities now are not limited.

The bill would create a federal felony charge against a gun dealer if a lost or stolen gun is recovered by authorities before the loss is discovered and reported. It would revoke a gun dealer's license immediately upon conviction of any felony, even if the conviction is under review by a higher court or is being appealed.

S. 969 would also suspend a gun dealer's license if, before the dealer files a report, authorities discover a gun that allegedly has been "missing" from inventory. It would suspend a gun dealer's license immediately upon being charged with any crime. Under current law, gun dealers are allowed to keep their licenses until and unless the government can prove its charges in court.

"Lautenberg and his gun-grabbing senatorial partners in gun hatred seem to think that the availability of

guns per se is causative of crime," Snyder asserted. "As a matter of fact, Lautenberg even stated on one occasion, 'gun availability changed this person into a criminal.' That really is strictly off the wall. The scientific evidence indicates that the possession of guns by law-abiding citizens correlates with reductions in rates of violent crime."



## POINT BLANK

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

**Editor** John M. Snyder  
**Publisher** Alan M. Gottlieb  
**Managing Editor** J. H. Versnel  
Dave Workman  
**Associate Editors** Mike Connelly  
Tom Gresham  
Merrill Jacobs  
Bob Kukla  
Peggy Tartaro  
Joe Waldron

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# CCRKBA COMMENDS NCPA BALLISTIC IMAGING STUDY

CCRKBA has commended the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) for its report on "Ballistic Imaging" as "Not Ready for Prime Time."

CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder said the NCPA study "demonstrates scientifically that gun grabber claims regarding the crime-fighting viability of mandatory ballistic imaging requirements as a prerequisite to private firearm purchases by law-abiding citizens are vastly overblown.

"The authors of this report, David B. Kopel, J.D., Research Director of the Independence Institute, and H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D., NCPA Senior Fellow, have rendered the cause of honesty in research, as well as the right to keep and bear arms, a tremendous service," Snyder said.

According to the report, current federal attempts to create a database of images of marks that guns make on bullets and cartridge cases won't work because there are too many inexpensive ways for criminals to defeat it.

Among those attempting to create such a database are Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, and Rep. Xavier Becerra of California. Daschle introduced S. 22 and Becerra introduced H.R. 24, both of which include ballistic "fingerprinting" schemes.

The proposed ballistic imaging database would store digital photographs of marks made by individual guns that then could be matched against marks on shells and bullets recovered at crime scenes, a process that often is referred to, erroneously, as "ballistic fingerprinting."

"Only the bad guys will win if we rely on ballistic imaging to solve crimes," said Burnett. "The imaging

database is unreliable and expensive, and will divert scarce resources from other, more productive crime-fighting programs."

Kopel added that, "criminals will quickly learn how to beat the system because bullet marks can easily be altered." He noted that barrel, ejector or firing pin markings can be changed with a steel brush, nail file or patch soaked in abrasives, such as toothpaste.

Kopel pointed out, too, that markings can be changed by shooting ammunition with dirt, grit or grinding powder on it, or by polishing.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) has already built a national database of images of cartridge cases associated with crimes over the past decade. Gun control advocates now propose federal legislation requiring gun manufacturers to test fire and retain images made by all new guns on bullets and cartridge casings. They claim the bullet imaging database will solve more crimes. However, bullet imaging has been used in Maryland and New York for nearly two years and no crimes have been solved because of the process. This makes the proposed new database costly.

According to NCPA, 166,672 bullets have been imaged in crime labs with only 264 matches, a success rate of 0.16 percent. The national database system examining cartridge cases fared little better – 1.25 percent. The cost of equipping 206 crime labs for imaging is \$250,000 per site; that's \$195,000 per match and \$51.5 million diverted from other programs.

Kopel and Burnett say ballistic imaging technology has many other obvious limitations. Gun models from the same manufacturer initially produce almost identical markings,

and worn barrels can change a gun's "signature." So can replacement parts. Different brands of ammunition can vary. Ballistic examiners' final judgments are subjective, unlike DNA matching, which is objective, they said.

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the largest police organization in the United States, also dismissed the creation of a ballistic imaging database.

FOP stated that the organization "does not support any federal requirement to register privately owned firearms with the government. Without federally mandated registration of the more than 200 million firearms in the United States today, such a database would be no more effective than the current National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) maintained by BATFE. And even if such a database is limited to firearms manufactured in the future, the cost to create and maintain such a system, with such small chances that it would be used to solve a firearms crime, suggests to FOP these are law enforcement dollars best spent elsewhere."

Kopel and Burnett state that, "ballistic imaging technology cannot come remotely close to fulfilling the promises that gun control advocates make... A company named Nano Via says it is developing what may one day be a realistic alternative: a micro device that stamps a tiny imprint of the gun's serial number onto every cartridge case. Such a device might one day be a useful forensic tool. For now, ballistic imaging mandates for noncrime guns would only hinder effective law enforcement."

# CCRKBA UPHOLDING GUN RIGHTS IN CITIES

CCRKBA officials are out in front defending the right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms in major cities in the United States.

In Chicago, for instance, with the Windy City's murder rate skyrocketing, and on its way to becoming the "Murder Capital" of the nation this year, CCRKBA last month called upon Mayor Richard Daley to abandon his anti-self-defense policies and allow Chicago residents the means with which to defend themselves.

"Mayor Daley, tear down your wall, remove your barriers against the Second Amendment, and give your people a fighting chance," demanded CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "How many more must die defenseless before you admit that your anti-gun policies are bankrupt? How much longer must Chicago residents live in fear of gang-bangers and thugs, stripped of the tools for self-defense by your prejudice against the concept of armed, law-abiding citizens?"

Waldron blamed Chicago's ban on handguns and its Draconian attitude about armed self-defense for the city's climbing murder rate. There already had been 179 murders in Chicago by early last month, 16 more than last year at the same time. Last year, Chicago ranked only second to Los Angeles in the number of killings, with 646 homicides in the city.

"Even children aren't safe on Chicago's streets," Waldron noted. "A 12-year-old is gunned down on his way to buy candy. A seven-year-old is wounded while lying on her porch. Mayor Daley says this situation is intolerable, and he's right. But it's his fault, and the fault of city leaders clear back to the days of his father's administration."

Waldron stated further that, "the

problem in Chicago is that Mayor Daley appears to be only selectively anti-gun. His approach is to take guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens, but he's doing nothing to disarm the criminals. His administration takes law-abiding gun makers to court, but there's no tangible effort to take gun criminals before those same judges and juries.

"The Daley machine has had years to deal with this, and all they've done is create a target-rich environment for predators by disarming the victims. The time has long since passed for Mayor Daley to reassess his priorities and his philosophy. It's time for Chicago citizens to fight back. They just need the tools, because it's obvious they don't have the leadership."

In another development, CCRKBA hailed the decision by the city of Cincinnati to drop its four-year-old

lawsuit against the gun industry, noting that it is long past the time for this wasteful case to be "round-filed."

"Cincinnati threw in the towel after gun makers challenged the city to substantiate its wild allegations," CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb noted. "After spending four years to pursue this frivolous enterprise, it is long past time that this lawsuit is round-filed, where it belonged in the first place."

"If nothing else," Gottlieb continued, "ending the lawsuit so soon after gun makers demanded to see the evidence behind the city's claims is a strong indication that that lawsuit was nothing but a flimsy sham."

# CCRKBA 'TAKES OFF GLOVES' IN CHALLENGES

Gunrights "battle royals" are shaping up in four hot spots around the country, where the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has urged officials to "take a lesson" from Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and enable citizens to legally defend themselves.

As this issue of *Point Blank* went to press, Missouri gun owners were waiting to learn whether Gov. Bob Holden would follow through with a threatened veto of that state's legislation creating a concealed carry licensing system.

Concurrently, CCRKBA called upon lawmakers in Ohio to "take a message" from court rulings that had declared the Buckeye State's ban on concealed carry to be unconstitutional, and also pass a concealed carry statute. CCRKBA also urged

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft to sign such a measure.

But it was in discussing New York City's current situation that CCRKBA's Alan Gottlieb threw down the gauntlet.

Appalled by recent reports that a Harlem bodega operator had been arrested for using an unregistered handgun to shoot down an armed robber, while an unarmed bodega operator had been gunned down by thugs Gottlieb called upon Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly to "get their priorities straight or get out."

Minnesota's Gov. Pawlenty has come under fire for signing the CCW reform legislation, but Gottlieb and CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron publicly lauded his action. They both urged governors in other states to follow Pawlenty's example.

"Gov. Pawlenty did the responsible thing in signing this common-sense legislation," said Gottlieb. "Minnesota's new law affirms and reinforces the right of the citizens to keep and bear arms for their personal defense, and affirms that the Second Amendment protects an individual civil right... He courageously ignored hysterical rhetoric from anti-gunners in the Democratic Farm Labor Party and the press to make Minnesotans safer from crime."

"It stopped crimes in progress and saved lives, including their own. Unarmed people never have that option. They are simply victims."

Turning his attention to Missouri, and Gov. Holden's veto threat, Waldron stated, "Personal safety should not be a political football... That's not just irresponsible. It's criminal."

In Ohio, CCRKBA leaders urged lawmakers to pass a CCW bill immediately.

"We are renewing our call on Gov. Taft to abandon his irresponsible opposition to sensible concealed carry reform," said Gottlieb.

In Denver, Mayor Webb is challenging Colorado's new shall-issue statute, contending that he is "defending the city's right" to prevent people from arming themselves for personal protection.

That prompted a quick response from Waldron, who noted, "Cities don't have rights, citizens do."

But the toughest comments came for New York's Bloomberg and Kelly. In a city where law-abiding citizens find it impossible to legally arm themselves against criminals, police have created a public furor by issuing citations over outrageous technical infractions.

"New York City hasn't gone to the dogs," observed Gottlieb. "The Big Apple has gone completely insane. While Bloomberg and Kelly have their cops running around issuing citations to a pregnant woman for resting on a subway stairwell, and a Bronx man for sitting on a milk crate, people are getting robbed and killed."

Gottlieb said the situation is an example of what happens when a city is "consumed by gun control chaos." In recent months, law-abiding homeowners have been prosecuted for using unlicensed guns to defend their families, and the tales have enraged New Yorkers.

"It's no surprise," Gottlieb added, "that beat cops are reportedly furious. They have to spend their time issuing 'revenue tickets' while merchants are being murdered, or jailed for fighting back."

## BATON ROUGE WOMAN EARNS CCRKBA

This month's CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month award winner is Tiffany Hyatt Theriot of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Theriot is a spokeswoman for the Armed Females of America. CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder said, "She has a tremendous story to tell and she tells it well, a great message to convey and she conveys it well. An articulate and dedicated public promoter of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, Tiffany surely is most deserving of this award."

Theriot came to national attention recently when Fox News reported that she and two other women gun rights activists claimed they were set up and ambushed on a biased anti-

murders of women than I have ever seen. There have been abductions, attempted abductions, women's bodies being dumped in Whiskey Bay, female college students stalked and brutally murdered, men dressed up as police officers attacking women in their homes."

Theriot revealed that she, too, had been the victim of a violent assault by several men.

"I am a 31 year old single mother of four," she said. "Being a victim of an assault, combined with the mysterious killings, made me realize that my only recourse was to carry a gun and be prepared at all times. I was raised using guns for sport, but until now I had never learned to use a gun for self-defense. I am now educated, trained and ready to defend myself and my family with deadly force."

Tiffany said that she now encourages women to train and educate themselves as armed members of the community in the hope of preventing more stories like her own. Her motto now is, "it is better to have a gun and never need it, than to need a gun and not have it."

Trained in Reike, an ancient Japanese hearing art, and working toward an undergraduate degree in pre-med, Tiffany worked in the emergency room of two Baton Rouge hospitals before her life became centered on promoting female gun use for self-defense.

"I have seen gun shot wounds up close," she noted, "and what damage a bullet can do to the human body, but far worse is seeing the woman or child who has been raped and beaten without a chance to defend themselves."

Tiffany tells women who are afraid of guns and who have never used or

sometimes even held a gun that, "if you follow the rules of gun safety, become trained so that you can properly handle the weapon, and know the carry laws in your state, using a gun can give you a significant advantage over an assailant that you otherwise would not have."

She also informs them that the gun should not be their only line of self-defense, and advises them to carry a can of Mace, learn physical self-defense skills, always be aware of their surroundings, note that other everyday items can be used as weapons, and organize a plan of self-defense in the home.

"These are all things I tell women when they come into the gun store and firing range where I volunteer my time," she said.

"I firmly believe," Tiffany stated, "that girls should be taught as they are growing up, when, where and how to use a gun for self-defense. We as women are often taught that there will always be someone there to protect us, but that is far from reality. If I could make just one significant change to benefit the future women of America, I would make sure that little girls are taught self-defense before they are taught sex education in school, and the history of our Second Amendment rights would be taught along with lessons on gun safety."

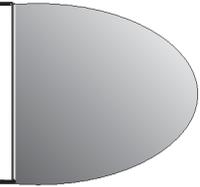
gun NBC television program.

In the fall of 2001, Theriot says, she remembers driving home and passing a beautiful little house surrounded by crime scene tape. "I wondered what happened," she remembers, "but didn't worry too much because nothing 'really bad' ever happened in that part of town. Little did I know then, but the Baton Rouge Serial Killer had just left his calling card."

She told Point Blank that it has been almost two years and Baton Rouge "has been plagued by more violent

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The President “would be wise to consider a policy flip-flop” on the issue of support for the so-called assault weapons ban, editorialized The Washington Times. “The law was signed by Bill Clinton in 1994 and expires next year,” wrote the Times. “Two weeks ago, Bush spokesman Scott McClellan stated that, ‘The President supports the current law, and he supports reauthorization of the current law.’ Since then, the White House has been mum on the topic. Because the President’s position doesn’t seem set in stone yet, now is an opportune time to revisit the issue.” Point Blank readers could write The President, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.



New York Times reporter Philip Shenon in a story from Glynco, Georgia writes that, “officials here of the Transportation Security Administration, which had initially joined with the airline industry in opposing the idea of arming pilots, say they have come to believe that weapons in the cockpit could bolster safety. ‘This is a new level of security,’ said John K. Moran, deputy assistant administrator for law enforcement and security. ‘We believe that this is going to be a very strong deterrent to anybody who might want to reach a cockpit.’ He said that the first class of pilots represented some of the finest aviators in the industry and that several of them had had distinguished military careers and extensive weapons training before joining the airlines.”

Passage in the U. S. House of Representatives of the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, writes political analyst Stuart Rosenberg in Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, “and the size of the majority, reminds us of how dramatically the issue of gun control has turned in the United States. Just a few years ago, supporters of new restrictions seemed to have the upper hand. With much of the national media calling for new laws, Jim and Sarah Brady leading the drive to end gun show sales, and school shootings in Arkansas and Colorado focusing attention on gun violence, more restrictions on gun ownership seemed inevitable. Now, gun control opponents clearly have the momentum...How times have changed.”

Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Zell Miller of Georgia introduced a proposed Ballistic Imaging Evaluation and Study Act of 2003, S. 980, to conduct a study on ballistic imaging technology and its effectiveness as a law enforcement tool. While a number of studies already have shown that existing ballistic imaging systems are flawed, congressional gun grabbers are pushing mandatory ballistics testing legislation. By supporting S. 980, pro-gun spokesmen in congress hope to head-off potential support for the gun grabbers’ proposals.

Gun grabbers in the U.S. Senate introduced S. 866, a proposed Child Safety Lock Act of 2003. It would require that a locking device be incorporated into or sold with every handgun which is sold by a federal firearms licensee. Introduced by Sen. Herbert H. Kohl of Wisconsin, co-sponsors include fellow Democrats Jon Corzine of New Jersey, Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, Dianne Feinstein of California, Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Charles E. Schumer of New York, and Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey.

Will Hollywood actor Sean Penn be held personally responsible for any crimes committed with either of two handguns taken from his car after it was stolen in Berkeley, California recently? He would be if the loss happened in Indiana instead of California. The Indiana Supreme Court ruled 5-0 in April that gun owners have a responsibility to the public to exercise “reasonable care” in the safe storage of their firearms. If that standard applied to the Hollywood elite, Penn could be in big trouble, said Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman. Penn lost a loaded Glock 9mm and unloaded .38-caliber Smith & Wesson when his 1987 Buick was stolen while he was dining at a Berkeley restaurant. The car was recovered but the guns are still missing.

