

## Right to Keep and Bear Arms



Our victory -- forcing President Obama's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) to cease and desist on its AR-15 ammo ban -- could be short-lived.

There's a growing BIPARTISAN anti-gun storm brewing in Congress, and it's bent on BANNING so-called "cop killer" ammunition and giving President Obama's Attorney General the authority to BAN law-abiding American citizens from owning guns based on flimsy "terrorism" fears!

After the results of the 2014 elections, you would think gun control advocates in BOTH parties had finally learned that pushing gun control in Congress resulted in nothing but political suicide at the ballot box.

Instead, the anti-gun folks are doubling-down with two bills they believe will catch Second Amendment supporters flat-footed and be a sure winner at the ballot box.

Congressman Peter King (R-NY) introduced legislation to BAN anyone "appropriately suspected" of being involved in terrorist activity from being able to buy or own a gun (H.R. 1076).

"Appropriately suspected" is never defined. Instead, it would be up to the U.S. Attorney General to effectively pick and choose which American citizens to BAN from owning guns! And speaking of the Attorney General, Obama nominated Loretta Lynch to replace avowed anti-gun rights Erick Holder and both of our Senators voted to approve of her. Ms. Lynch is a gun control clone of Erick Holder.

We have already seen President Obama's Department of Homeland Security issuing warnings about patriotic Americans, "right-wing extremists," veterans and those with the "wrong" Presidential candidate's bumper sticker on their cars. And just recently, the Department of Homeland Security issued a report stating that those involved in "right-wing" groups could be an even bigger threat than ISIS!

Armed with the power to decide which Americans can own guns and which can't, I shudder to think what President Obama's Attorney General might do with that enormous power.

Recently Eliot Engel (D-NY) introduced legislation to BAN popular 5.56 AR-15 "green tip" ammunition (H.R. 1358) -- a popular round often used in target shooting.

As you know, the BATFE announced its intention to ban this ammunition as "armor piercing," but backed down due to public outcry. But if the gun control crowd could get congressional legislation banning one type of ammunition, it will hardly be the end of their ammo bans.

*"At the rate we're going, we're going to have so many people with guns everywhere, fully licensed, fully validated, in settings where [one] could be in a movie theater, and they don't like someone chewing gum loudly or talking on their cell phone and decide they have the perfect right to defend themselves against the gum chewer or cell phone user by shooting" – Hillary Clinton*

### Another Gun Grab: Tax Breaks for ARs

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) recently introduced, Support Assault Firearm Elimination and Education of our Streets Act (SAFER Streets Act), would give a \$2,000 tax credit over two years for anyone who voluntarily give up their "assault weapon" as defined by the federal government. This bill is another gun control, knee jerk, reaction to the Sandy Hook murders.

"Let us be clear. Assault weapons are not about hunting or even self-defense and they should be off the streets," DeLauro said in a statement introducing the original bill. "There is no reason on Earth, other than to kill as many people as possible in a very short period of time, that anyone needs a gun designed for military purposes."

There are unsubstantiated facts, such as her claim that assault weapons "have been disproportionately used to kill law enforcement officers in the line of duty." The Executive Director for the Fraternal Order of Police, in countering Obama's attempted administrative move against popular AR-15 ammunition, said M855 "green tip" ammunition "has not historically posed a threat to law enforcement."

In terms of reducing crime, that's already done. The Department of Justice's own numbers show that violent crime dropped 75% since 1993, and the murder rate has been halved. As National Review's Charles C.W. Cooke writes, "[S]o-called 'assault rifles' are used so infrequently that the FBI doesn't even keep statistics."

This episode illustrates two strategies of gun control advocates. First, DeLauro's bill is incremental. The Right blogosphere is rife with jokes about how a Democrat wants to give gun owners heaps of cash for guns. But really, it's a subtle change that will set a government precedent of discouraging gun ownership.

Make no mistake: DeLauro wants all the scary-looking guns banned. "She supports a comprehensive ban on assault weapons as well as high-capacity ammunition feeding devices," her press release reads.

### Concealed Carry Reciprocity

S.498 is gaining support in the Senate while H.R. 923 is moving through the House. We should urge our representatives to sign on as co-sponsors or at least to vote to approve these bills when they reach the respective floors for voting.

Second, her bill is full of the rhetoric of gun control crusaders: that it's a safety issue, or a public health risk. DeLauro introduced this bill to commemorate Public Health Week.

### Administration preps new gun regulations

Obama's Department of Justice is working on "more than a dozen" new gun control regulations it plans to begin implementing apart from Congress. Some of the regulations are set to be put in place by November, others simply by the end of the Obama administration.

According to The Hill, "the regulations range from new restrictions on high-powered pistols to gun storage requirements" and the issuance of "new rules expanding criteria for people who do not qualify for gun ownership."

Part and parcel to this new "criteria" will be an ATF-implemented ban on gun ownership for anyone "convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence." Gun Owners of America's Michael Hammond warns that under this rule the person barred from gun ownership "could be [someone] who spanked his kid, or yelled at his wife, or slapped her husband."

The Justice Department plans to issue new rules expanding criteria for people who do not qualify for gun ownership, according to the recently released Unified Agenda, which is a list of rules that federal agencies are developing.

Some of the rules come in response to President Obama's call to reduce gun violence in the wake of Sandy Hook. He issued 23 executive actions shortly after the shooting aimed at keeping guns away from dangerous people, and some of those items remain incomplete.

"If America worked harder to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, there would be fewer atrocities like the one that occurred in Newtown," Obama said at the time.

The new regulations will also include ATF enlargements on mental health-based gun ownership bans. Hammond summed this up by saying, "The Obama administration is trying very hard to disqualify people from owning a gun on the basis that they are seeing a psychologist." And the NRA pointed out that because most mentally ill persons

pose no threat to society, the new regulations will actually become “snares [for] masses of mostly harmless individuals.”

The NRA added: “Not only is this unjust and stigmatizing, it creates disincentives for those who need mental health treatment to seek it, increasing whatever risks are associated with untreated mental illness.”

In other words, people who might actually need some minor mental health attention may refuse to pursue it for fear of losing their guns.

The ATF is also working on “rules that would require gun dealers to report gun thefts, provide gun storage and safety devices, and place restrictions on high-powered pistols.”

*"Firearms stand next in importance to the constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence ... from the hour the Pilgrims landed to the present day, events, occurrences and tendencies prove that to ensure peace security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable ... the very atmosphere of firearms anywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."*

*George Washington First President of the United States*

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