

NRA



MARKETING DEATH

HOW THE GUN INDUSTRY
USES THE NRA TO BOOST PROFITS
AND UNDERMINE PUBLIC SAFETY



While the country mourns the lives of multiple mass shooting victims and sufferers of gun violence, the radical gun lobby known as the National Rifle Association has not wavered in its stance against commonsense gun safety laws. The NRA claims to represent regular gun owners, but as of 2015, most of them disagreed with the NRA's positions against universal background checks and assault weapons bans. Instead, the group is incentivized to take extreme policy views and spread rhetoric that helps pad the wallets of the gun industry. The NRA is financially backed by the gun industry and has multiple sitting board members with ties to gun and ammunition manufacturing. Today's NRA does not speak for everyday gun-owners and sportsmen, but mainly represents the interests of the \$13.5 billion-a-year gun industry.

The NRA's board of directors is filled with gun manufacturing executives, lawyers, and lobbyists. NRA First Vice President and CEO of Brownells, Inc., Pete Brownell, leads the "world's largest supplier" of gun accessories and gunsmithing tools, which included the so-called "cop killer" bullets the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms proposed to ban. Brownell, who has donated at least \$1 million to the NRA, said that having gun industry leaders as NRA directors "ensures the NRA's focus is honed on the overall mission of the organization." Another NRA board member, CEO of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing Ronnie Barrett, created the first .50 caliber military-style rifle for civilian use and has testified to his rifles' "usefulness against commercial planes."

In addition to the NRA directors who benefit from gun sales, the group's board is packed with extremists who are out of step with typical American gun owners, and in many cases, even mainstream American values. After the 2015 Mother Emanuel A.M.E. church shooting in Charleston, NRA board member Charles Cotton disgracefully blamed the pastor, who was also murdered, for the deaths of his eight congregants. Cotton wrote, "Eight of his church members... might be alive if he had expressly allowed members to carry handguns in church." After the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012 took the lives of 20 children and six adults, fellow NRA board member Scott Bach outrageously described the Newtown families pushing for stricter gun safety laws as a "prop."

Considering the NRA's reliance on the gun manufacturing industry, it is not surprising that it has consistently fought commonsense gun safety legislation to protect its profits. Just one day after the San Bernardino massacre killed 14 people and injured 21 others, the NRA tweeted that members should call their senators and "urge them to vote no" on "any and all" gun violence prevention measures. In fact, the assault weapons the alleged attackers used in the mass shooting were purchased legally because the NRA had blocked a renewal of the federal assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004. Since the end of the assault weapons ban, "annual rifle production has increased about 38 percent." The group also "choked off money" for "basic" research on gun safety and was against blocking suspected terrorists' ability to buy guns.

The "No. 1 legislative priority" of the NRA was a law that shields gun manufacturers and dealers from liability lawsuits. Passage of the law in 2005 saved gun manufacturers millions. Smith & Wesson praised the law and said it looked forward to the "potential savings going forward." That same year the NRA created its "Ring of Freedom" donor program for members and corporations. The NRA successfully pushed for the rapid spread of laws legalizing the carrying of concealed firearms at the state level, which increased sales for gun manufacturers. In 2010, the number of licensed concealed-gun carriers jumped from less than one million in the 1980s to "a record 6 million."

The NRA also wields its influence in the electoral arena to elect loyal, gun-friendly politicians. During the 2008 election, the NRA spent \$15 million to paint Obama as a "threat to the Second Amendment" and the president of gun manufacturer Sturm Ruger said the election led to a "spike" in gun sales. The NRA is likely to be a major player in the 2016 election, especially considering the NRA and presumptive nominee Donald Trump have thoroughly embraced one another.

Billionaire right-wing heavyweights Charles and David Koch even joined forces with the NRA to spread their message of fear across the Koch network. The NRA took \$11.5 million from the Koch-allied Freedom Partners and the Center to Protect Patient Rights and worked with Americans for Prosperity "to train and mobilize gun owners." Koch Industries even served on a task force that was co-chaired by the NRA while it was a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council.

The gun industry has been the winner of the NRA's push to weaponize America, while the American public sees rising fatalities and casualties of gun violence. Gun manufacturers' stocks have risen over 300% since the beginning of the Obama presidency, fueled in large part by the NRAs pushing conspiracy theories, fear, and easier access to deadly weapons. The NRA's propaganda is working—despite crime statistics holding "near 20-year lows," the Pew Research Center has found that "we are at a moment when most Americans believe that crime rates are rising and when most believe gun ownership," not gun violence prevention laws, "makes people safer." It is clear that the gun and ammunition manufacturing industry has found a powerful and lucrative voice in the NRA.

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THE NRA DOES NOT REPRESENT THE POLICY PREFERENCES OF MOST GUN OWNERS

FEWER THAN TEN PERCENT OF GUN OWNERS WERE NRA MEMBERS

At Most Ten Percent Of American Gun Owners Belonged To The NRA As Of 2015. According to the Washington Post, “Let’s start with the membership numbers. In recent years the NRA has said it has 5 million dues-paying members. There’s some reason to be skeptical of this figure, but let’s assume 5 million is right. Those 5 million members only comprise somewhere between 6 and 7 percent of American gun owners. That would imply that the overwhelming majority of American gun owners -- over 90 percent of them -- do not belong to the NRA.” [Washington Post WonkBlog, [10/15/15](#)]

POLLS SHOWED THAT MOST GUN OWNERS DISAGREED WITH THE NRA ON BACKGROUND CHECKS, ASSAULT-STYLE WEAPON BANS, AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINE BANS

Washington Post: The NRA Was “Adamantly Opposed To Any New Restrictions On Weapons,” Leaving Gun Owners In Favor Of Reforms “Shut Out Of The Argument.” According to The Washington Post, “Gun owners who favor tighter restrictions on firearms say they are in the same position after the mass shooting in Oregon as they have been following other rampages — shut out of the argument. The pattern, they say, is frustrating and familiar: The what-should-be-done discussion pits anti-gun groups against the National Rifle Association and its allies, who are adamantly opposed to any new restrictions on weapons.” [Washington Post, [10/9/15](#)]

Most Gun Owners Disagreed With The NRA’s Stance Against Background Checks

THE NRA OPPOSED BACKGROUND CHECKS AT GUN SHOWS AND FOR PRIVATE SALES

2013: NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre: The NRA Does Not Support Universal Background Checks At Gun Shows. According to a video of a Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing with Sen. Patrick Leahy and NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, “LEAHY: You do not support background checks in all instances at gun shows? LAPIERRE: We do not, because the fact is, the law right now is a failure the way it is working. You have 76,000 people that have been denied under the present law. Only 44 were prosecuted. You are letting them go. They’re walking the street.” [Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing via YouTube, [1/30/13](#)]

The NRA Opposed Background Checks On Private Gun Sales. According to a statement from Chris Cox, NRA-ILA Executive Director, in a web post on the NRA-ILA’s website, “The story posted on NBCNews.com alleges that NRA will not oppose expanding the background check system to include all private firearm sales, ‘provided the legislation does not require private gun sellers to maintain records of the checks’. This statement is completely untrue. The NRA opposes criminalizing private firearms transfers between law-abiding individuals, and therefore opposes an expansion of the background check system.” [NRAILA.org, [3/12/13](#)]

MOST GUN OWNERS SUPPORTED BACKGROUND CHECKS AT GUN SHOWS AND FOR PRIVATE SALES, AND SAID THE NRA DID NOT REPRESENT THEIR THINKING

Public Policy Polling: 62 Percent Of Gun Owners Thought The NRA Did Not Represent Their Thinking When It Comes To Background Checks. According to a 2015 poll from Public Policy Polling, 62 percent of gun owners thought the NRA did not represent their thinking when it comes to background checks. [Public Policy Polling, [November 2015](#)]

Pew Research Study: 87 Percent Of People Who Lived In Gun-Ownng Households Favored Background Checks For Gun Shows. According to a 2015 Pew Research study, 87 percent of people who live in gun-ownng households favor background checks for gun shows. [Pew Research Center, [8/13/15](#)]

Pew Research Study: About 82 Percent Of Those Who Said It Was “More Important To Protect Gun Rights Than To Control Gun Ownership” Favored Expanded Background Checks On Private Gun Sales. According to a 2015 Pew Research study, “As previous Pew Research Center surveys have found, there is broad support for expanded background checks even from those who say it is more important to protect gun rights than to control gun ownership. About eight-in-ten (82%) of those who say it is more important to protect gun rights favor expanded background checks on private gun sales, as do 88% of those who prioritize controlling gun ownership.” [Pew Research Center, [8/13/15](#)]

LARGE NUMBERS OF GUN OWNERS DISAGREED WITH THE NRA’S STANCE AGAINST AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The NRA Opposed Assault-Style Weapons Bans

NRA Opposed Bans On Assault-Style Weapons. According to a web post on the NRA-ILA’s website, “Gun control supporters demanding a ban on ‘assault weapons’ have also demanded a ban on ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, most of which are designed for self-defense handguns. These gun and magazine bans should be rejected[.]” [NRAILA.org, [6/17/14](#)]

Half Of People In Gun-Ownng Households Favored An Assault Weapons Ban

Pew Research Study: 49 Percent Of People Who Lived In Gun-Ownng Households Favored A Ban On Assault-Style Weapons. According to a 2015 Pew Research study, 49 percent of people who live in gun-ownng households favor bans on assault weapons. [Pew Research Center, [8/13/15](#)]

More Than Half Of Gun-Owners Disagreed With The NRA’s Stance Against A High-Capacity Magazine Ban

The NRA Opposed Bans On High-Capacity Magazines

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The Majority Of People In Gun-Ownng Households Favored A Ban On High-Capacity Magazines

Pew Research Study: 51 Percent Of People Who Lived In Gun-Ownng Households Favored A Ban On High-Capacity Magazines. According to a 2013 Pew Research study, 51 percent of people who live in gun-ownng households favor a ban on high-capacity magazines. [Pew Research Center, [3/12/13](#)]

Even Large Numbers Of NRA Members Disagreed With The NRA On Background Checks, Assault-Style Weapon Bans, And High-Capacity Magazine Bans

MAJORITY OF NRA MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PRIVATE GUN SALES AND AT GUN SHOWS, DESPITE NRA OPPOSITION

Pew Research Study: 74 Percent Of NRA Households Favored Making Private Gun Sales And Sales At Gun Shows Subject To Background Checks. According to a 2013 Pew Research study, “Yet people in NRA households overwhelmingly favor making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks: 74% favor this proposal while just 26% are opposed.” [Pew Research Center, [3/12/13](#)]

LARGE NUMBERS OF NRA MEMBERS DISAGREED WITH THE NRA’S ABSOLUTIST STANCE AGAINST ASSAULT WEAPONS BANS & HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINE BANS

Roughly A Third Of Those In NRA Households Favored Bans On Assault-Style Weapons And High-Capacity Ammunition Clips. According to a 2013 Pew Research study, “[A]bout a third of those in NRA households favor bans on assault-style weapons (33%) and high-capacity ammunition clips (35%).” [Pew Research Center, [3/12/13](#)]

GUN OWNERS BELIEVED THE NRA WAS OVERTAKEN BY LOBBYISTS

Public Policy Polling: 59 Percent Of Gun Owners Agreed That The NRA Was “Overtaken By Lobbyists.” According to a 2015 poll from Public Policy Polling, 45 percent of gun owners “strongly agree” the NRA has been “overtaken by lobbyists,” while 14 percent “somewhat agree.” [Public Policy Polling, [November 2015](#)]

THE NRA HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A LOBBYING GROUP FOR GUN MANUFACTURERS AND THE EXTREME RIGHT

SUMMARY:

The NRA is financially reliant on the gun industry.

- ✓ Business Insider: “The NRA’s revenues are intrinsically linked to the success of the gun business.”
- ✓ The NRA operated programs that let participating stores give customers the option to “round up” their purchase and donate the difference to the NRA or “add a buck” letting customers contribute a dollar. The “round up” program was created by founder And CEO of MidwayUSA to help “fight anti-gun legislation.”
- ✓ Gun manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company pledged to give between \$1 to the NRA for every gun sold between 2011 and 2012 and \$2 to the NRA for every gun sold between 2015 and 2016.
- ✓ The NRA Foundation’s fundraising organization, Friends of the NRA depended on the gun industry as a “key source of financial support” and gave guns contributed from gun companies to its donors.
- ✓ The NRA’s Ring of Freedom donor program was created in 2005 to recognize donors who made gifts of \$1,000 or more – the gun industry gave “between \$20 million and \$52.6 million to the NRA through the NRA Ring of Freedom
- ✓ Holding company Freedom Group, called “the most powerful and mysterious force in the American commercial gun industry” by the New York Times, was inducted into the NRA’s Golden Ring of Freedom, for donors who give \$1 million or more in 2015. Freedom Group owned Bushmaster along with Remington and Marlin Firearms, Dakota Arms, and DPMS Firearms.

The NRA’s executive leadership & board of directors are packed with people who are linked to the gun industry and have radical positions on gun policy.

- ✓ **President Allan Cors** was part of the NRA’s “Revolt of 1977” that led the organization to become involved in lobbying and politics. Cors was a “principle advocate” in establishing the NRA’s political action committee and lobbying efforts, after previously serving as a counsel with the House Judiciary Committee. Cors has commented that he remembered “remarkably free times” when a child could “take a shotgun or rifle to school and stow it in the cloakroom.”

- ✓ **CEO and Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre** has frequently used Nazi imagery and conspiracy theories when describing his extreme positions on gun policy. He wrote that the “systematic disarmament of Jews” had paved the way for the Holocaust. LaPierre has also said that President Obama’s reelection would lead to “the confiscation of our firearms.”
- ✓ **First Vice President Pete Brownell** was the CEO of Brownells, Inc., the “world’s largest supplier of firearms accessories and gunsmithing tools.” Brownell’s became known for selling high-capacity magazines and accessories for assault rifles, and offered officially licensed NRA products. Brownells also sold so-called “cop killer” bullets that the ATF had proposed to ban. Brownell, who has donated at least \$1 million to the NRA, has said that “[h]aving directors who intimately understand and work in leadership positions within the firearms industry ensures the NRA’s focus is honed on the overall mission of the organization.”
- ✓ The NRA board had seven members who were CEOs, lawyers, or lobbyists for the gun manufacturing industry, including Ronnie Barrett, creator of the first .50 caliber military-style rifle for civilian use, and Jim Porter, an attorney with “expertise in defending gun manufacturers in lawsuits” who believed that civilians should be trained to use military weapons.
- ✓ Former NRA president Sandy Froman has praised and defended the gun industry, crediting the industry for boosting NRA membership and saying that it’s “part of the fabric of America.”
- ✓ Ted Nugent was a musician and right-wing activist known for his extreme statements on guns. He claimed that not owning a gun is a “suicidal choice,” and that mass shootings occur because of the “scourge of political correctness.” Nugent has also made violent and racist remarks against President Obama in 2012, saying that “If Barack Obama becomes the next president in November, again, I will either be dead or in jail by this time next year.” In 2007, Nugent called Hillary Clinton a “worthless bitch” and said she should ride his machine gun into the sunset.
- ✓ Grover Norquist, known for the Taxpayer Protection Pledge he championed as founder of Americans for Tax Reform, has made many extreme statements on gun policy. Norquist has claimed that “it should be” easier to buy a gun than a book and there is “no need” for comprehensive background checks when buying a gun. Norquist was at one point investigated by the NRA for his alleged ties to terrorist groups.

The NRA has put significant resources into pushing for laws that would financially benefit the firearms industry.

- ✓ As the NRA “notched political successes that benefited the firearms industry,” it began seeking more in contributions from gun manufacturers.
- ✓ The NRA’s “No. 1 legislative priority” was a law that shields gun manufacturers and dealers from liability lawsuits. Passage of the law in 2005 saved gun manufacturers millions. Smith & Wesson praised the law and said it looked forward to the “potential savings going forward.” That same year the NRA created its “Ring of Freedom” donor program for members and corporations.
- ✓ The NRA successfully pushed for the rapid spread of laws legalizing the carrying of concealed firearms. Laws allowing concealed carry have increased sales for gun manufacturers; an NRA lobbyist boasted that “the gun industry should send me a basket of fruit.”
- ✓ The NRA previously said silencers “put guns in a bad light,” but was later enlisted by the suppressor industry to help it improve its image, around the same time the industry donated millions. Silencer sales have “soared” since.

The NRA Was Considered One Of The Most Powerful Lobbies In Washington

THE NRA'S LOBBYING ARM WAS THE NRA INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION (NRA-ILA), HEADED BY CHRIS COX, WHO ALSO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NRA'S PAC

The NRA's Lobbying Arm Is The NRA Institute For Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). According to the NRA-ILA's website, "The Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) is the lobbying arm of the NRA. Established in 1975, ILA is committed to preserving the right of all law-abiding individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms for legitimate purposes as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution." [NRA-ILA, accessed [12/20/13](#)]

The NRA-ILA's Executive Director Was Lobbyist Chris W. Cox Who Is Also Chairman Of The NRA's PAC, The NRA Political Victory Fund. According to Chris Cox's biography on the NRA-ILA's website, "As NRA's chief lobbyist and principal political strategist, Cox oversees nine NRA-ILA divisions – Federal Affairs, State & Local Affairs, Public Affairs, Research & Information, Grassroots, Hunting/Conservation/Wildlife, Office of Legislative Counsel, External Affairs (International) and Fiscal. He also serves as president of the NRA Freedom Action Foundation (NRA-FAF), which conducts non-partisan voter registration and citizen education, and chairman of NRA Country, which brings country music artists together with NRA members in support of our Second Amendment freedoms and hunting heritage. [...] As chairman of NRA's Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF), Cox has directed NRA's electoral efforts at every level. From presidential campaigns to congressional, state and local races, NRA has achieved unprecedented success under Cox's leadership." [NRAILA.org, accessed [10/8/15](#)]

Cox "Has Administrative Responsibility Over NRA-ILA's \$30 Million Budget" And Serves As "The Principal Contact With The United States Senate And House Of Representatives, The White House And Federal Agencies." According to Chris Cox's biography on the NRA-ILA's website, "Directing NRA's nationwide legislative and political efforts, Cox develops and executes independent political campaigns and legislative initiatives; coordinates national advertising and direct mail programs; and has administrative responsibility over NRA-ILA's \$30 million budget. He also serves as the Association's principal contact with the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the White House and federal agencies." [NRAILA.org, accessed [10/8/15](#)]

NRA: "Under Cox's Leadership, NRA Has Achieved Some Of Its Most Significant Political And Legislative Victories." According to the NRA-ILA's website, "Under Cox's leadership, NRA has achieved some of its most significant political and legislative victories: legislation to protect American firearms manufacturers from reckless lawsuits brought by anti-gun mayors and gun-control groups; a federal law, as well as laws in many states, to prevent government authorities from confiscating firearms from lawful citizens in the wake of natural disasters, such as occurred after Hurricane Katrina; legislation to allow lawful concealed-carry permit holders to carry firearms in national parks; Castle Doctrine legislation; national Right-to-Carry reciprocity; and more." [NRA-PVF, accessed [10/5/15](#)]

THE NRA-ILA WAS AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL LOBBYING ORGANIZATION

Washington Post: The NRA Was "One Of The Most Feared" Lobbying Organizations. According to the Washington Post, "Today it is arguably the most powerful lobbying organization in the nation's capital and certainly one of the most feared. There is no single secret to its success, but what liberals loathe about the NRA is a key part of its power. These are the people who say no." [Washington Post, [1/12/13](#)]

Business Insider: The NRA Was "Considered One Of The Most Powerful Lobbies In Washington." According to Business Insider, "The National Rifle Association is considered one of the most powerful lobbies in Washington. The way it operates — including how it recruits and maintains an active membership — have given it outsize influence over lawmakers at the state and federal level." [Business Insider, [12/18/12](#)]

The NRA Has "Successfully Lobbied Against The Expansion" Of Federal Gun Safety Measures In The Post-Newtown Era, And "Supported Numerous State-Level Policy Changes That Broadened Access To Guns." According to The Washington Post, "It's widely acknowledged that the National Rifle Association is one of the nation's most influential advocacy groups. They've successfully lobbied against the expansion of federal gun control policies in the post-Newtown era, and supported numerous state-level policy changes that broadened access to guns. Through campaign donations and popular legislator scorecards they exert considerable influence on federal gun law making." [Washington Post Wonkblog, [10/15/15](#)]

The NRA Was Funded Primarily By Gun And Ammunition Manufacturers

The Gun And Ammunition Manufacturing Industry Had An Annual Revenue Of \$13.5 Billion. According to CNBC, the gun and ammunition manufacturing industry had an annual revenue of \$13.5 billion as of 2015. [CNBC, [10/2/15](#)]

The Annual Revenue Of Gun And Ammunition Stores Was \$3.1 Billion, “With A \$478.4 Million Profit.” According to CNBC, the annual revenue of gun and ammunition stores was \$3.1 billion, “with a \$478.4 million profit.” [CNBC, [10/2/15](#)]

THE BULK OF THE NRA’S REVENUES CAME FROM CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY, NOT MEMBERSHIP DUES

Less Than Half Of NRA Revenues Came From Dues Paid By Individual NRA Members

Business Insider: “Less Than Half Of The NRA's Revenues Come From Program Fees And Membership Dues.”

According to Business Insider, “While that is still part of the organization's core function, today less than half of the NRA's revenues come from program fees and membership dues. The bulk of the group's money now comes in the form of contributions, grants, royalty income, and advertising, much of it originating from gun industry sources. [...]The NRA's revenues are intrinsically linked to the success of the gun business.” [Business Insider, [1/16/13](#)]

“The Bulk” Of The NRA’s Money Came “In The Form Of Contributions, Grants, Royalty Income, And Advertising, Much Of It Originating From Gun Industry Sources.” According to Business Insider, “While that is still part of the organization's core function, today less than half of the NRA's revenues come from program fees and membership dues. The bulk of the group's money now comes in the form of contributions, grants, royalty income, and advertising, much of it originating from gun industry sources. [...]The NRA's revenues are intrinsically linked to the success of the gun business.” [Business Insider, [1/16/13](#)]

- **The NRA Received \$128 Million In Member Dues In 2014.** According to National Rifle Association tax documents, the NRA received \$128,322,055 in member dues in 2014. [NRA Form 990 via Conservative Transparency, [2014](#)]
- **NRA’s Total Revenue In 2014 Was More Than \$310 Million.** According to National Rifle Association tax documents, the NRA received \$310,491,277 in total revenue in 2013. [NRA Form 990 via Conservative Transparency, [2014](#)]

THE NRA DEvised AND PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAMS THAT LINKED REVENUES FROM GUN SALES TO INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NRA

Business Insider: “The NRA's Revenues Are Intrinsically Linked To The Success Of The Gun Business.” According to Business Insider, “While that is still part of the organization's core function, today less than half of the NRA's revenues come from program fees and membership dues. The bulk of the group's money now comes in the form of contributions, grants, royalty income, and advertising, much of it originating from gun industry sources. [...]The NRA's revenues are intrinsically linked to the success of the gun business.” [Business Insider, [1/16/13](#)]

Gun Manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company Pledged To Give \$2 To The NRA For Every Gun Sold Between 2015 And 2016, With The Goal Of Selling Two Million Guns

Gun Manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company Pledged To Donate \$2 To The NRA For Each Firearm Sold Between The 2015 And 2016, With The Goal Of Giving \$4 Million. According to a press release from gun manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company, “Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR) has pledged to donate \$2 to the NRA for each new Ruger firearm sold between the 2015 and 2016 NRA Annual Meetings, with the goal of giving \$4,000,000. Ruger's donation will benefit the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA).” [Sturm, Ruger & Company Press Release, [6/1/15](#)]

- **Ruger CEO Mike Fifer: “Our Goal Is To Sell Two Million Firearms Between The 2015 And 2016 ...With That, We Pledge To Donate Not One, But Two Dollars To The NRA For Every New Firearm Sold.”** According to a

press release from gun manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company, “‘We're bringing back the One Million Gun Challenge with a twist,’ said Ruger CEO Mike Fifer. ‘Our goal is to sell two million firearms between the 2015 and 2016 NRA Annual Meetings. With that, we pledge to donate not one, but two dollars to the NRA for every new firearm sold during that time. We accomplished our goals to support the NRA in 2012, and with the help of our loyal customers, we believe we can do it again.’” [Sturm, Ruger & Company Press Release, [6/1/15](#)]

Sturm, Ruger & Company Pledged To Give \$1 To The NRA For Every Gun Sold Between 2011 And 2012 And Ended Up Raising \$1.25 Million

Gun Manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company Gave \$1 To The NRA’s Lobbying Arm For Every Gun Sold Between 2011 And 2012, With The Goal Of Giving The Group \$1 Million. According to FactCheck.org, “In one case, the gun manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company tied its donations directly to gun sales in a program called the ‘Million Gun Challenge.’ According to an April 2012 press release, Ruger promised to donate \$1 to the NRA-ILA for each gun it sold over the course of a year, from May 2011 to May 2012.” [FactCheck.org, [1/15/13](#)]

- **Sturm, Ruger & Company’s “Million Gun Challenge” Raised \$1.25 Million For The NRA-ILA.** According to FactCheck.org, “In one case, the gun manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Company tied its donations directly to gun sales in a program called the ‘Million Gun Challenge.’ According to an April 2012 press release, Ruger promised to donate \$1 to the NRA-ILA for each gun it sold over the course of a year, from May 2011 to May 2012. The ‘Million Gun Challenge’ exceeded its goal and raised \$1.25 million.” [FactCheck.org, [1/15/13](#)]

Laser Sights Manufacturer Crimson Trace Donated “10 Percent Of Each Sale To The NRA”

Crimson Trace, Which Manufactured Laser Sights, Donated “10 Percent Of Each Sale To The NRA.” According to Business Insider, “Additionally, some companies donate portions of sales directly to the NRA. Crimson Trace, which makes laser sights, donates 10 percent of each sale to the NRA.” [Business Insider, [1/16/13](#)]

Taurus Purchased A NRA Membership For Everyone Who Bought One Of Their Guns

Taurus Offered A “Free One-Year NRA Membership” To People Who Purchased A Firearm. According to Taurus’ website, “THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING A FIREARM FROM TAURUS. We're committed to growing the National Rifle Association. To receive your FREE one-year NRA membership from Taurus - a \$35 value - click on the link below, complete the form and send it along with a copy of the store receipt (retain the original for your records) to: Taurus International[,] NRA Membership Offer[,] 16175 NW 49 Avenue[,] Miami, FL 33014[.]” [TaurusUSA.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

- **Business Insider: “Taurus Buys An NRA Membership For Everyone Who Buys One Of Their Guns.”** According to Business Insider, “Additionally, some companies donate portions of sales directly to the NRA. Crimson Trace, which makes laser sights, donates 10 percent of each sale to the NRA. Taurus buys an NRA membership for everyone who buys one of their guns.” [Business Insider, [1/16/13](#)]

NRA Offered Licensing Deals To Corporate Sponsors, Allowing Gun Industry To Profit Off Of The NRA Brand

NRA: “Whether You Choose To License Products Or Sponsor One Of NRA's Many Programs Or Events, This Is A Valuable Opportunity To Tap Into The Strong Brand Presence And Buying Power Of The NRA.” According to the NRA Ring of Freedom’s website, “Whether you choose to license products or sponsor one of NRA's many programs or events, this is a valuable opportunity to tap into the strong brand presence and buying power of the NRA.” [NRAGive.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

The NRA Foundation And NRA’s Lobbying Arm Operated “Round Up” And “Add-A-Buck” Programs, Which Allowed Them To receive Contributions Off Of Gun Store Purchases

NRA Foundation And NRA Institute Of Legislative Action Operated Fundraising Programs, Which Allowed Gun Customers At Certain Gun Stores “To ‘Round Up’ The Purchase Price To The Nearest Dollar As A Contribution.” According to FactCheck.org, “The NRA Foundation and the NRA Institute of Legislative Action each operate separate

fundraising programs that allow gun customers at participating gun stores to ‘round up’ the purchase price to the nearest dollar as a contribution. Some customers may be asked instead, depending on the company making the sale, to ‘add a buck for shooting’s future’— much in the same way that some food stores ask for small donations to fight cancer or hunger when customers check out.” [FactCheck.org, [1/15/13](#)]

- **The “Add-A-Buck” Program Allowed Customers To Contribute A Dollar To The NRA Foundation Or Its Lobbying Arm When They Purchased Products At Participating Stores.** According to the NRA Ring of Freedom website, “This program enables your customers to contribute a dollar at point-of-purchase. When you participate in the Add-A-Buck Program, the funds raised will go toward the NRA 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization of your choice.” [NRARing.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]
- **There Were 54 Corporate Sponsors From The Gun, Hunting And Ammunition Industry That Participated In The NRA’s “Round-Up” And “Add-A-Buck Programs.”** According to the NRA Ring of Freedom website, there were 54 corporate sponsors that participated in the NRA’s Round-Up and Add-A-Buck programs as of 2015. [NRAGive.org, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

The NRA-ILA’s “Round-Up” Program Was “The Brainchild” Of Gun Store Owner Larry Potterfield, The Founder And CEO Of MidwayUSA. According to FactCheck.org, “The NRA-ILA, which is the lobbying arm of the NRA, operates a ‘round-up’ program with fewer participating companies, although it has been in existence for longer. Its program was the brainchild of gun store owner Larry Potterfield, the founder and CEO of Midway USA in Missouri. In a video on his website, Potterfield says he started the program in 1992 and the money raised from his customers goes into the ‘Endowment for the Protection of the Second Amendment.’ A few other companies have since joined the program, but Midway customers are still the largest contributors by far. In a Dec. 7, 2012, press release, the company said its customers have donated \$7.6 million to the NRA lobbying group since 1992. The program has a balance of nearly \$9.5 million, including contributions from gun customers at other stores, the press release says. Potterfield says very little of that money has been spent to date. In his video, he says the NRA-ILA spends just 5 percent of the fund’s balance each year “to fight anti-gun legislation,” allowing the endowment fund to grow each year.” [FactCheck.org, [1/15/13](#)]

- **MidwayUSA Was “An Industry Leader In Shooting And Reloading Supplies.”** According to Ammoland.com, “MidwayUSA is an industry leader in shooting and reloading supplies. Founded in Columbia, Missouri, in 1977, MidwayUSA has fostered a strong commitment to Friends of NRA and the shooting sports over the years.” [Ammoland.com, [1/23/11](#)]
- **MidwayUSA Customers Contributed “Nearly \$10 Million Dollars To The NRA-ILA National Endowment For The Protection Of The 2nd Amendment” As Of 2014.** According to MidwayUSA Press Release, “Twenty-two years ago Larry and Brenda Potterfield launched the NRA Round-Up, a special program designed to raise funds for the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). To date, MidwayUSA Customers have contributed nearly \$10 million dollars to the NRA-ILA National Endowment for the Protection of the 2nd Amendment.” [MidwayUSA Press Release, [4/30/14](#)]
- **Potterfield: “Each Year, NRA-ILA Spends Five Percent Of The Interest” Accrued From The Round Up Program’s Donations “To Fight Anti-Gun Legislation.”** According to MidwayUSA Press Release, “‘January 2, 1992 we started asking our Customers at MidwayUSA if they would “Round-Up” their order to the next higher dollar and let us donate that money to the NRA-ILA. Our Customers overwhelmingly said yes and to date they have donated nearly \$10 Million,’ said Larry Potterfield, Founder and CEO of MidwayUSA. ‘The actual donations have never been spent, but each year, NRA-ILA spends five percent of the interest to fight anti-gun legislation. The next time you place an order with MidwayUSA, please round up. With your support, we can change the future.’” [MidwayUSA Press Release, [4/30/14](#)]
- **Co-Owner Of Midway USA And Wife Of Larry Potterfield, Brenda Potterfield, “Previously Served As The Vice President Of The NRA Foundation’s Board Of Trustees.”** According to Ammoland.com, “MidwayUSA is an industry leader in shooting and reloading supplies. Founded in Columbia, Missouri, in 1977, MidwayUSA has fostered a strong commitment to Friends of NRA and the shooting sports over the years. Brenda Potterfield, co-owner and wife of Larry, has previously served as the Vice President of the NRA Foundation’s Board of Trustees.” [Ammoland.com, [1/23/11](#)]

THE NRA ALSO RELIED ON LARGE DONATIONS, OFTEN ROUTED THROUGH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE 501(C)3 CHARITY; THOSE DONATIONS ALSO ORIGINATED IN LARGE PART FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES

Mother Jones: “Since 2005,” Many Of The NRA’s “Biggest Benefactors Have Come From The Gun Industry, Which Has Relied On The Group To Fight Some Major Legal And Political Battles.” According to Mother Jones, “Since 2005, many of its biggest benefactors have come from the gun industry, which has relied on the group to fight some major legal and political battles.” [Mother Jones, [4/2/13](#)]

Friends Of The NRA Raised Money For The NRA Foundation, With Major Contributions From The Firearms Industry

Friends Of NRA “Raised Over \$600 Million For The NRA Foundation,” Beginning In 1992. According to the Friends of NRA website, “Amongst the fun and fellowship, Friends of NRA banquets boil down to one goal— fundraising for the future of the shooting sports. Since its inception in 1992, Friends of NRA has held over 17,600 events, reached over 3.2 million attendees and raised over \$600 million for The NRA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Each year, The NRA Foundation allocates half of all net proceeds to fund projects within the state in which the money was raised and uses the other half to fund similar projects with a national scope. [...] Amongst the fun and fellowship, Friends of NRA banquets boil down to one goal— fundraising for the future of the shooting sports. Since its inception in 1992, Friends of NRA has held over 17,600 events, reached over 3.2 million attendees and raised over \$600 million for The NRA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Each year, The NRA Foundation allocates half of all net proceeds to fund projects within the state in which the money was raised and uses the other half to fund similar projects with a national scope.” [FriendsofNRA.org, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

- **MidwayUSA Founder And CEO Larry Potterfield “Was Integral In The Creation Of Friends Of NRA.”** According to Ammoland.com, “MidwayUSA is an industry leader in shooting and reloading supplies. Founded in Columbia, Missouri, in 1977, MidwayUSA has fostered a strong commitment to Friends of NRA and the shooting sports over the years. [...] Larry Potterfield was integral in the creation of Friends of NRA. The first chapter, founded in 1992 in Columbia, Missouri, held its banquet in the MidwayUSA headquarters. After nearly two decades, Friends of NRA has expanded to over 12,000 events held across the United States.” [Ammoland.com, [1/23/11](#)]
- **John Da Silva, National Manager Of Events & Marketing For Friends Of NRA: “Since The Beginning Of The Program, The Shooting And Hunting Industry Has Been A Key Source Of Financial Support In Achieving Fundraising Goals.”** According to Ammoland.com, “‘Since the beginning of the program, the shooting and hunting industry has been a key source of financial support in achieving fundraising goals,’ said John da Silva, National Manager of Events & Marketing for Friends of NRA. ‘Both Larry and Brenda Potterfield, along with their business, MidwayUSA, understood the significance of our mission and have generously contributed financial support at the local and national level for the Friends of NRA program.’” [Ammoland.com, [1/23/11](#)]
- **Da Silva: “This New Corporate Sponsorship Program Was Established In 2010 With MidwayUSA Being The First To Contribute \$50,000.”** According to Ammoland.com, “‘This new corporate sponsorship program was established in 2010 with MidwayUSA being the first to contribute \$50,000. We are grateful for MidwayUSA’s continued support in 2011 and look forward to expanding the opportunities with other industry leaders in the near future,’ said da Silva.” [Ammoland.com, [1/23/11](#)]
- **Seventy-One Percent Of The Friends Of NRA’s Forty-Two “Industry Supporters” Sell Guns, Gun Accessories Or Ammunition.** According to the Friends of NRA’s website, thirty of the group’s forty-two “industry supporters” sold guns, gun accessories or ammunition as of 2015. [FriendsofNRA.org, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

The NRA Foundation Was A 501(C)3 Charity That Offered Tax-Deductible Donations; It Was A Major Source Of Funds To The NRA

The NRA Foundation Was Classified As A 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Organization As Of 2015. According to Friends of NRA’s website, “Classified as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, The NRA Foundation’s mission is strictly educational and

political activity is strictly prohibited. If a 501(c)3 organization is found to be engaging in political activity, it loses its tax-exempt status with no opportunity to reapply for a 501(c)4 classification that would allow some political activity (NRA is classified as a 501(c)4 organization).” [FriendsofNRA.org, accessed [10/14/15](#)]

- **Friends Of NRA: “Contributions To The NRA Foundation Are Tax-Deductible, Whereas Those To The National Rifle Association Are Not, Allowing The NRA Foundation To Raise More Funds Than Otherwise Would Be Possible.”** According to Friends of NRA’s website, “Contributions to The NRA Foundation are tax-deductible, whereas those to the National Rifle Association are not, allowing The NRA Foundation to raise more funds than otherwise would be possible. In this case, defending freedom requires our supporters to leave political issues aside when associating with The NRA Foundation and Friends of NRA.” [FriendsofNRA.org, accessed [10/14/15](#)]

The NRA Foundation’s Grants To The NRA Never Fell Below 50% Of The NRA Foundation’s Total Outgoing Grants. According to NRA Foundation tax documents, in 2014, the NRA Foundation contributed \$17,299,188 to the NRA out of \$32,730,830 in total grants; in 2013, the NRA Foundation contributed \$13,044,170 to the NRA out of \$25,142,104 in total grants; in 2012, the NRA Foundation contributed \$13,518,518 to the NRA out of \$23,162,338 in total outgoing grants; in 2011, the NRA Foundation contributed \$11,752,062 to the NRA out of \$20,578,246 in total grants; in 2010, the NRA Foundation contributed \$12,573,541 to the NRA out of \$21,241,222 in total grants; in 2009, the NRA Foundation contributed \$9,711,363 to the NRA out of \$17,725,773 in total grants; in 2008, the NRA Foundation contributed \$9,336,484 to the NRA out of \$17,447,181 in total grants. The pattern continues through at least 2002. [NRA Foundation Forms 990 via Conservative Transparency, [2002-2014](#)]

FactCheck.org: The NRA Foundation Had No Staff And Paid No Salaries. According to FactCheck.org, “The NRA Foundation has no staff and pays no salaries.” [FactCheck.org, [1/15/13](#)]

The NRA Foundation Also Contributed To Allegedly Non-Political NRA Entities Focused On Voter Registration Of Gun Owners In Election Years

In 2010, The NRA Foundation Made A “Gift, Grant, Or Capital Contribution” To The NRA Freedom Action Foundation Of \$77,000. According to the NRA Foundation’s 2010 990, the NRA Foundation contributed \$77,000 to the NRA Freedom Action Foundation in 2010. [NRA Foundation 990, 2010]

- **The NRA “Created The NRA Freedom Action Foundation... To Focus On Non-Partisan Voter Registration And Citizen Education Initiatives.”** According to the NRA Freedom Action Foundation website, “The National Rifle Association of America has created the NRA Freedom Action Foundation, a tax-exempt charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to focus on non-partisan voter registration and citizen education initiatives.” [NRAFAF.org, accessed [11/2/15](#)]
- **NRFAF: “The NRA Freedom Action Foundations’ Trigger The Vote Campaign Is A National Non-Partisan Voter Registration Campaign To Ensure Gun Owners Across The Country Are Registered To Vote.”** According to the NRA Freedom Action Foundation website, “There can be little doubt that the great support of the American people for the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and pro-Second Amendment policies in the nation’s policymaking bodies could be made even greater with a more robust comprehensive voter registration program. The NRA Freedom Action Foundations’ Trigger the Vote campaign is a national non-partisan voter registration campaign to ensure gun owners across the country are registered to vote.” [NRAFAF.org, accessed [11/2/15](#)]

In 2010, The NRA Foundation Made A “Gift, Grant, Or Capital Contribution” To The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund of \$61,028. According to the NRA Foundation’s 2010 990, the NRA Foundation contributed \$61,028 to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund in 2010. [NRA Foundation 990, 2010]

- **The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund “Was Established... To Become Involved In Court Cases Establishing Legal Precedents In Favor Of Gun Owners.”** According to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund website, “The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund was established by the NRA Board of Directors in 1978 to become involved in court cases establishing legal precedents in favor of gun owners. To accomplish this, the Fund provides legal and financial assistance to selected individuals and organizations defending their right to keep and bear arms. [NRADefenseFund.org, accessed [11/3/15](#)]

- **NRACRDF: “Additionally, The Fund Sponsors Legal Research And Education On A Wide Variety Of Firearms Related Issues.”** According to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund website, “Additionally, the Fund sponsors legal research and education on a wide variety of firearms related issues, including the meaning of the Second Amendment and nature of the right to keep and bear arms provisions in state constitutions.” [NRADefenseFund.org, accessed [11/3/15](#)]

The NRA’s Ring Of Freedom Program Raised Significant Funds From The Firearms Industry

NRA: “The NRA Ring Of Freedom Is A Donor Recognition Society Honoring Those Who Have Made Gifts Of \$1,000 Or More Per Year To Benefit Any NRA Program.” According to the NRA Ring of Freedom website, “The NRA Ring of Freedom is a donor recognition society honoring those who have made gifts of \$1,000 or more per year to benefit any NRA program. Our mission is to gather the resources required to help preserve the uniquely American freedoms set forth by our Founding Fathers in the Second Amendment.” [NRAGive.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

The Gun Industry And Its Corporate Allies Have Given “Between \$20 Million And \$52.6 Million” To The NRA Through The NRA Ring Of Freedom Sponsor Program Since It Began In 2005. According to Business Insider, “Since 2005, the gun industry and its corporate allies have given between \$20 million and \$52.6 million to it through the NRA Ring of Freedom sponsor program. Donors include firearm companies like Midway USA, Springfield Armory Inc, Pierce Bullet Seal Target Systems, and Beretta USA Corporation. Other supporters from the gun industry include Cabala’s, Sturm Ruger & Co, and Smith & Wesson.” [Business Insider, [1/16/13](#)]

The NRA’s Golden Ring Of Freedom Was For Donors Who Give \$1 Million Or More. According to the NRA Ring of Freedom website, the Golden Ring of Freedom is for donors who give \$1,000,000. The donors receive “gifts of appreciation plus: Custom Golden Ring of Freedom blazer, Special recognition ceremony at the Ring of Freedom reception at NRA’s Annual Meetings & Exhibits, Invitations to private events.” [NRAGive.com, viewed [10/29/15](#)]

Since 2007, The NRA Ring Of Freedom Held An “Invitation Only” Gathering For “Leaders From The Shooting Industry And Corporate Business World.” According to the NRA Ring of Freedom’s website, “Begun in 2007, this invitation-only gathering welcomes leaders from the shooting industry and corporate business world. The group joins together for a meeting and luncheon to celebrate unfailing commitment to freedom.” [NRAGive.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

“Gun Making Conglomerate” Freedom Group’s Executives Were Inducted Into The NRA’s Golden Ring of Freedom

Freedom Group Was A “Gun Making Conglomerate” That Owns Brands Such As Bushmaster And Remington. According to Fox Business, “A dispute involving a gun industry executive who claims he was fired after being falsely accused of bringing his weapons to work offers a peek into Freedom Group, the gun making conglomerate owned by Cerberus Capital Management LP. The battle unfolding in Manhattan federal court concerns Advanced Armament Corp. LLC, a maker of silencers that is one of the smaller businesses within Freedom Group, which also owns iconic brands such as Bushmaster and Remington Arms.” [Fox Business, [6/7/13](#)]

- **The CEO Of Freedom Group, George Kollitides, And Its Two Executives Wally McLallen And Scott Blackwell Were Inducted Into The NRA’s Golden Ring of Freedom.** According to a video titled “Golden Ring of Freedom 2013 Inductees” narrated by NRA Office of Advancement Executive Director, Tyler Schropp, on the NRA Ring of Freedom website, “We have to recognize the Freedom Group. Over the past few years they’ve emerged as a significant force in the industry and the NRA, and I’m proud to welcome three members of their leadership team into our Ring. Their CEO, George Kollitides, is a quick, instinctive, decision maker as well as a passionate hunter and shooter. Beyond the business world, he’s made important contributions to conservation efforts and the gun rights movement. His efforts on behalf of the Freedom Group and the NRA, benefit gun owners all over this great country. Next is Wally McLallen, who isn’t just savvy in the business of our industry, but a proven defender against the likes of NBC. When they tried to attack gun owners and manufacturers and the second amendment, Wally and the rest of the Freedom Group Team stood up for all of us, with a bold, proud, defense. And finally, Scott Blackwell. Wayne LaPierre says that the key to the strongest defense of the Second Amendment is the marketplace, and Scott has his finger planted firmly there. Under his leadership I’m looking forward to seeing new exciting innovations that move the firearms industry forward. Freedom Group’s companies all have tremendous, time earned reputations for quality and innovation and I can think of no one better to

guide them into the future. George, Wally, Scott, thank you and welcome to the Golden Ring of Freedom.”
[NRAGive.com, viewed [10/29/15](#)]

Freedom Group Was “The Most Powerful And Mysterious Force In The American Commercial Gun Industry”

New York Times In 2011 Called Freedom Group “The Most Powerful And Mysterious Force In The American Commercial Gun Industry.” According to The New York Times, “In recent years, many top-selling brands — including the 195-year-old Remington Arms, as well as Bushmaster Firearms and DPMS, leading makers of military-style semiautomatics — have quietly passed into the hands of a single private company. It is called the Freedom Group — and it is the most powerful and mysterious force in the American commercial gun industry today. Never heard of it? You’re not alone. Even within gun circles, the Freedom Group is something of an enigma. Its rise has been so swift that it has become the subject of wild speculation and grassy-knoll conspiracy theories.” [New York Times, [11/26/11](#)]

“By Its Own Count, The Freedom Group Sold 1.2 Million Long Guns And 2.6 Billion Rounds Of Ammunition In The 12 Months Ended March 2010.” According to The New York Times, “Even within gun circles, the Freedom Group is something of an enigma. Its rise has been so swift that it has become the subject of wild speculation and grassy-knoll conspiracy theories. In the realm of consumer rifles and shotguns — long guns, in the trade — it is unrivaled in its size and reach. By its own count, the Freedom Group sold 1.2 million long guns and 2.6 billion rounds of ammunition in the 12 months ended March 2010, the most recent year for which figures are publicly available.” [New York Times, [11/26/11](#)]

Freedom Group “Rebranded” As Remington Outdoor Company And Was One Of NRA’s Corporate Partners. According to an op-ed by Violence Policy Center executive director Josh Sugarman for The New York Times, “One of the N.R.A.’s corporate partners is Freedom Group, now rebranded as Remington Outdoor Company, manufacturer of the Bushmaster assault rifle used in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Another is Smith & Wesson, manufacturer of the semiautomatic assault rifle used in the July 2012 mass shooting at an Aurora, Colo., movie theater and the pistol used in the recent Fort Hood shooting.” [Josh Sugarman – New York Times, [4/17/14](#)]

The NRA’s Funding Schemes Drew Scrutiny As Potentially Violating Election Law

CREW: The NRA “Failed To Disclose More Than \$33.5 Million It Spent On Political Activity Over Six Years.” According to a press release from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, “Today, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington requested the Internal Revenue Service open an examination into the finances of the National Rifle Association after the group failed to disclose more than \$33.5 million it spent on political activity over six years.” [Press Release – CREW, [6/9/15](#)]

CREW: “The Group Apparently Violated Federal Election Law By Soliciting Donations For The NRA-ILA That Went Instead To The NRA-PVF.” According to a press release from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, “CREW also called on the Federal Election Commission to audit the NRA’s campaign arm, the NRA Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF), and its lobbying arm, the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA), after the group apparently violated federal election law by soliciting donations for the NRA-ILA that went instead to the NRA-PVF.” [Press Release – CREW, [6/9/15](#)]

CREW: “The NRA Also Appears To Have Violated Federal Election Law By Soliciting Donations From The General Public, Which It Is Prohibited From Doing As A Member Organization.” According to a press release from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, “CREW also called on the FEC to audit the NRA-PVF and NRA-ILA because it appears these groups may have solicited donations in violation of federal election law by failing to disclose to donors that their money would be used for political purposes. The NRA also appears to have violated federal election law by soliciting donations from the general public, which it is prohibited from doing as a member organization, and by failing to disclose the employer and/or occupation of its contributors.” [Press Release – CREW, [6/9/15](#)]

CREW: “The NRA Also Appears To Have Violated Federal Election Law By... Failing To Disclose The Employer And/Or Occupation Of Its Contributors.” According to a press release from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, “CREW also called on the FEC to audit the NRA-PVF and NRA-ILA because it appears these groups may have solicited donations in violation of federal election law by failing to disclose to donors that their money would be used for political purposes. The NRA also appears to have violated federal election law by soliciting donations from the general public,

which it is prohibited from doing as a member organization, and by failing to disclose the employer and/or occupation of its contributors.” [Press Release – CREW, [6/9/15](#)]

The NRA’s Executive Leadership And Board Of Directors Had Deep Ties To The Firearms Industry

PETE BROWNELL, NRA FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Pete Brownell Was Elected First Vice President Of The NRA In 2015. According to a web post from the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, “Pete Brownell of Montezuma, Iowa was elected first vice president. Brownell, who previously served as NRA second vice president, is also the current chairman of the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW), an active member of the U.S. Army’s Command and General Staff Foundation Board, and vice chair of the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board.” [NRILA.org/articles, [4/13/15](#)]

Brownell Was CEO Of Brownells, Inc As Of 2015. According to the Brownells’ website, Pete Brownell was CEO of Brownells, Inc as of 2015. [Brownells.com, accessed [9/25/15](#)]

- **Brownells Was “The World’s Largest Supplier of Firearms Accessories and Gunsmithing Tools.”** According to the Brownells’ website, “Though technology was very much a part of the Brownells culture, Frank continued to insist on open, honest, one-on-one customer service. Under Frank’s direction, the growth continued tremendously throughout the 1990s, and the gun parts and accessories business, along with the gunsmithing supplies continued to thrive. As a result, the company earned its title as The World’s Largest Supplier of Firearms Accessories and Gunsmithing Tools™.” [Brownells.com, accessed [9/25/15](#)]

Brownell’s Firearms Company Had Ties To The NRA

When Asked If Brownell’s Company Was Involved In The Politics Of The Gun Industry, Brownell Said “We’re Definitely Involved In The NRA.” According to an AR-15 Podcast interview with Pete Brownell, “INTERVIEWER: Does Brownells, as a company, step forward for its customers, the gunsmiths, for the industry and try to get involved in a meaningful way? Or do you stand behind the kind of, the front-running entities that do that as far as the political side of things go? BROWNELL: Well, um, we do both. There’s, there’s, three major organizations out there, starting with the NRA, of which I am the first vice president of the NRA in line to be the president of the NRA in about two years. So we stand up there, shoulder to shoulder with Wayne LaPierre and Chris Cox, uh sometimes, but, and most definitely as the leadership chairs in the NRA. We stand there to support, to make sure they have what they need to get the job done to protect the personal right to own firearms. So, we’re definitely involved in the NRA. We’ve helped fund some scholarships and some foundation work that helps youth get a good experience with firearms.” [AR-15 Podcast via YouTube.com, [4/23/15](#)]

Brownell’s Company Participated In The NRA’s Annual Meetings And Exhibits Show For Over 65 Years. According to a web post from Brownells, “Brownells – The World’s Largest Supplier of Firearms Accessories, Ammunition & Gunsmithing Tools™ – is proud to continue its perfect ‘NRA Show’ attendance record at this year’s 142nd Annual NRA Meetings & Exhibits, taking place at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston, Texas, May 3-5, 2013. The 74-year-old Brownells joins only two other companies who’ve exhibited at every show since 1948.” [Brownells.com, accessed [10/2/15](#)]

Brownells Featured A Link To Join The NRA On Its Website. [Brownells.com, accessed [10/6/15](#)]

- **Brownells On NRA: “To Encourage You To Join This Vital Organization, We’ve Arranged For A Special Membership Offer. Join Now Through Brownells And Get An Annual Membership For \$25-\$10 Off The Regular Dues.”** According to the Brownells’ website, “All the folks here at Brownells absolutely believe in the tremendously important work the National Rifle Association does on behalf of all gun owners. Not just defending our rights at the federal, state, and local government levels, but through the extensive shooter education programs and support of our military and law enforcement personnel. We think everyone who owns guns, hunts, or shoots should be an NRA member. To encourage you to join this vital organization, we’ve arranged for a special membership offer. Join now through Brownells and get an annual membership for \$25-\$10 off the regular dues.” [Brownells.com, accessed [10/6/15](#)]

Brownell's Company Contributed "Between \$1 Million And \$4.9 Million" To The NRA. According to the Huffington Post, "These companies and other gun industry giants have ponied up big bucks to the NRA since 2005, according to a list of NRA corporate partners posted at its last convention. For instance, Brownells is in an elite group of donors that have given between \$1 million and \$4.9 million since 2005." [Huffington Post, [1/11/13](#)]

Brownell Defended The Firearms Industry's Relationship With The NRA, Saying That Having Firearms Industry Executives Involved "Ensures The NRA's Focus Is Honed On The Overall Mission Of The Organization."

Brownell: "Having Directors Who Intimately Understand And Work In Leadership Positions Within The Firearms Industry Ensures The NRA's Focus Is Honed On The Overall Mission Of The Organization." According to an archived page on Pete Brownell's website, "Having directors who intimately understand and work in leadership positions within the firearms industry ensures the NRA's focus is honed on the overall mission of the organization. These individuals bring a keen sense of the industry and of the bigger fight to the table." [PeteBrownell.com/mission via web.archive.org, [7/20/10](#)]

Brownell's Company Sold High Capacity Magazines And Accessories To Assault Weapons Used In 50% Of Mass Shootings, As Well As "Cop Killer" Bullets

Mother Jones Found That High-Capacity Magazines And Assault Weapons Were Used In At Least Half Of The 62 Mass Shootings They Investigated. According to Mother Jones, "More than half of the killers we studied in our investigation of 62 mass shootings over the last three decades possessed weapons that would be banned by Feinstein's bill, including various semi-automatic rifles, guns with military features, and handguns using magazines with more than 10 rounds. The damage these weapons can cause has been on grim display since last summer, from Aurora to Milwaukee to Minneapolis to Newtown, where attacks carried out with them left a total of 118 people injured and dead." [Mother Jones, [2/27/13](#)]

Brownells Sold High Capacity Magazines. According to Brownells' website, Brownells sold high-capacity magazines as of 2015. [Brownells.com, accessed [10/5/15](#)]

Brownells Sold "A Wide Range Of High-Capacity Ammunition Magazines For Pistols And Assault Weapons, Including The Same Glock Magazine As The 33-Round One Used In The Arizona Shooting." According to Bloomberg Business, "Pete Brownell, owner of Brownells Inc. and an NRA board member, sells a wide range of high-capacity ammunition magazines for pistols and assault weapons, including the same Glock magazine as the 33-round one used in the Arizona shooting." [Bloomberg Business, [1/24/13](#)]

Brownells Sold An AK-47 Magazine Loader, Which It Claimed Would Help Users "Load Magazines Fast." According to the description of the Maglula LTD – AK-47 Mag Loader that was for sale on Brownells' website as of 2015, "Load Magazines Fast; Saves Overworked Fingers & Thumbs[.] Tough, lightweight, reinforced, black-polymer loader saves fingers, thumbs, and wasted time; lengthens magazine life and lessens wear and tear on magazine lips. Staggered, triangular pieces of plastic securely grasp rounds for effortless loading when you move the lever back and forth. Fits in your pocket." [Brownells.com, accessed [10/5/15](#)]

The Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms And Explosives Proposed A Ban On 5.56MM "Green Tip" Ammunition In An Attempt To Repress So-Called "Cop Killer Bullets." According to The Washington Post's Wonkblog, "The ATF [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives] proposal targeted 5.56mm 'green tip' ammunition in SS109 and M855 cartridges. The armor-piercing bullet had been sold for years under an exemption to a 1986 law that sought to crack down on so-called cop killer bullets. Exemptions were granted if the ammunition was used mostly for sporting purposes -- hunting and target shooting -- and not in handguns. Now, the ATF sought to strip the 'green tip' ammo of its exemption because of the development of AR-15 handguns that could fire the bullets." [Washington Post, [3/10/15](#)]

Brownells Sold 5.56MM XM855 Green Tip Rifle Ammunition As Of 2015. According to Brownells' website, Brownells sold 5.56MM XM855 green tip Rifle Ammunition. [Brownells.com, accessed [12/8/15](#)]

Brownell Was The Chairman Of An Industry Lobbying Group

Brownell Was Chairman Of The National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers As Of 2015. According to a web post from the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, “Brownell, who previously served as NRA second vice president, is also the current chairman of the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW), an active member of the U.S. Army’s Command and General Staff Foundation Board, and vice chair of the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [4/13/15](#)]

- **NASGW Was Comprised Of Hunting, Shooting And Fishing Equipment Wholesalers, Manufacturers And Independent Sales Reps.** According to the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers’ website, “The National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers is comprised of wholesalers, manufacturers, and independent sales reps, media and service providers - both national and international - all of whom are primarily involved with fishing, hunting and shooting sports equipment and accessories.” [NASGW.org, accessed [9/25/15](#)]

Brownell’s Store Sold NRA-Licensed Products

Brownells’ Store Sold The “Officially Licensed NRA Magna-Tip® Screwdriver Set.” According to the description of the Officially Licensed NRA Magna-Tip® Screwdriver Set that was for sale on Brownells’ website as of 2015, “Brownells MAGNA-TIP bits are designed and manufactured to put an end to these frustrations. Each bit is made from the same, state-of-the-art materials used for heavy, industrial production applications, then ground expressly for gun work for a perfect blade-to-slot fit. [...] The full size, magnetic, screwdriver handle bears an official ‘NRA’ logo.” [Brownells.com, accessed [10/5/15](#)]

Brownells’ Store Sold The “NRA Official Universal Trigger Weight System,” Which Was “Made To The Exacting Needs Of Match Referees And International Juries, And Ideal For Gunsmiths.” According to the description of the NRA Official Universal Trigger Weight System that was for sale on Brownell’s website as of 2015, “Made to the exacting needs of match referees and international juries, and ideal for gunsmiths to ensure accurate trigger pull testing. Roller ends on both long and short hanging rods automatically keep the weight in the trigger curve.” [Brownells.com, accessed [10/5/15](#)]

Brownells’ Store Sold The “NRA Student Range Bag.” According to the description of the NRA Student Range Bag that was for sale on Brownell’s website as of 2015, “Based on the Brownells Signature Series bags, this NRA Student Range bag retains many of the larger bags’ features[.] Designed for the NRA to be used by NRA Pistol Students, but built to serve well past the NRA course is completed[.]” [Brownells.com, accessed [10/5/15](#)]

RICHARD CHILDRESS, NRA SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Richard Childress Was Elected The Second Vice President Of The NRA In 2015. According to the Daily Caller, “Allan D. Cors of Naples, Florida, was elected by the NRA Board of Directors as president of the historic 144-year-old association. The election took place in Nashville, Tennessee, following the 144th Annual Meeting of the NRA, where 78,865 members attended the 3-day celebration. [...] NASCAR legend Richard Childress of Welcome, North Carolina, was elected second vice president.” [Daily Caller, [4/16/15](#)]

Childress Was CEO Of Richard Childress Racing, Which Featured NRA Sponsorship And Used NRA In Its Promotions

Richard Childress Celebrated His 46th Year As CEO Of The Richard Childress Racing NASCAR Team In 2015. According to the Richard Childress Racing website, “In 2015, Richard Childress celebrates his 46th year as Chief Executive Officer of Richard Childress Racing. This season, Childress will field six full-time entries, including three in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series and three in the NASCAR Nationwide Series; along with one part-time entry in each series. A childhood dream of becoming a race car driver began while selling peanuts and popcorn at Bowman Gray Stadium. A 17-year-old Childress bought his first race car for \$20 and went on to build what is widely considered one of the legendary organizations in the history of motorsports.” [RCRRacing.com/about, accessed [10/8/15](#)]

2014: Childress’ Primary Sponsor, Bass Pro Shops, “Paid Tribute” To The NRA With A “Special Paint Scheme” For Childress’ Car. According to Ammoland.com, “Bass Pro Shops, the primary sponsor of Richard Childress Racing’s No. 3 Chevrolet SS driven by Austin Dillon in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, will pay tribute to the National Rifle Association’s members and the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum with a special paint scheme for the Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway on July 5. [...] The special NRA logo wrap was unveiled at the 2014 NRA Annual Meetings and

Exhibits, held April 25-27 in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to recognizing the millions of NRA members, the NRA-themed paint scheme donated by Bass Pro Shops also acknowledges the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum, which is located at Bass Pro Shops flagship superstore in Springfield, Mo.” [Ammoland.com, [4/28/14](#)]

Richard Childress Racing Has Promoted The NRA On Its Website. According the Richard Childress Racing website, “Legendary quality is what Richard Childress brings to everything he does, both on and off the track. Whether helping create an institute dedicated to saving children's lives, nurturing grapes to produce the premium wines of Childress Vineyards, supporting the NRA and hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation efforts of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, or breeding some of the finest Angus stock in the country, Richard insists on the best at every turn.” [RCRRacing.com/about, accessed [10/8/15](#)]

- **NASCAR Race Sponsorships Cost “More Than \$1 Million” And The Texas Motor Speedway President Said “The NRA ‘Paid Full Boat.’”** According to Sporting News, “The NRA 500 is set for Saturday at Texas Motor Speedway. It marks the first time that the organization, which is at the heart of the polarizing gun-control debate, has sponsored a Cup event. The NRA sponsored a Nationwide Series race last year at Atlanta Motor Speedway, but that event didn’t have the notoriety of a Cup event and the NRA wasn’t in the spotlight as much prior to the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December. Race sponsorships for the sport’s biggest tracks typically cost more than \$1 million, and TMS President Eddie Gossage said that the NRA ‘paid full boat’ for the deal.” [SportingNews.com, [4/10/13](#)]

JOHN FRAZER, NRA SECRETARY AND GENERAL COUNSEL

John Frazer Was Elected Secretary Of The NRA In 2015. According to a web post on the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action’s website, “The election took place in Nashville, Tennessee following the 144th Annual Meeting of the NRA where 78,865 members attended the 3-day celebration - the second highest number ever. [...] John Frazer was elected secretary.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [4/13/15](#)]

Frazer Became General Counsel To The NRA In January 2015. According to the newsletter of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association, which is affiliated with the NRA, “In January 2015, Frazer returned to the NRA as general counsel, and in April 2015, the NRA Board of Directors elected him Secretary.” [Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association Newsletter, [May 2015](#)]

Frazer’s Personal Law Firm Represented Clients In The Industry While He Was Involved In The NRA

Frazer Left The NRA To Start His Own Private Law Firm In 2013. According to the newsletter of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association, which is affiliated with the NRA, “In 2013, he left the NRA to start his own law practice in Fairfax, Va., where he continued to advise and represent the NRA as well as a private clientele of gun owners, dealers, manufacturers, and importers. He has taught at many continuing legal education seminars on firearms law. He is also admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and in various federal district courts and courts of appeals.” [Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association Newsletter, [May 2015](#)]

As An Attorney At His Own Firm, Frazer “Continued To Advise And Represent The NRA As Well As A Private Clientele Of Gun Owners, Dealers, Manufacturers, And Importers.” According to the newsletter of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association, which is affiliated with the NRA, “In 2013, he left the NRA to start his own law practice in Fairfax, Va., where he continued to advise and represent the NRA as well as a private clientele of gun owners, dealers, manufacturers, and importers. He has taught at many continuing legal education seminars on firearms law. He is also admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and in various federal district courts and courts of appeals.” [Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association Newsletter, [May 2015](#)]

Frazer Represented “Firearm Owners, Dealers And Manufacturers In Regulatory, Civil And Criminal Matters” Until January 2015. According to John Frazer’s profile on LinkedIn, Frazer was an attorney with the Law Office of John Frazer from September 2013 through January 2015 and wrote that he advised and represented “firearm owners, dealers and manufacturers in regulatory, civil and criminal matters.” [LinkedIn.com, accessed [10/8/15](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER RONNIE BARRETT

Ronnie Barrett Was Elected To The NRA Board In 2009. According to the Murfreesboro Post, “Murfreesboro businessman and firearms manufacturer Ronnie G. Barrett was elected to the Board of Directors for the 4.5 million member National Rifle Association. The founder and CEO of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing took the oath of office during the NRA annual meeting in Phoenix, which attracted over 65,000 NRA members, becoming the largest convention in Arizona history.” [Murfreesboro Post, [7/9/09](#)]

Barrett Was CEO Of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Which Produced A Semi-Automatic .50 Caliber Rifle Which Would “Enable Clueless Civilians To Hit Targets Like They Were Special Forces Snipers” And Could Take Out Commercial Airplanes

Barrett Was The CEO Of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Which “Designed The First .50 Caliber Rifle For Civilian Use.” According to MSNBC, “Two more gun industry executives sit on the NRA board. One is Ronnie G. Barrett, the CEO of the Tennessee-based Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, who designed the first .50 caliber rifle for civilian use.” [MSNBC.com, [8/19/13](#)]

- **The “Powerhouse Rifle That Started It All” For Barrett Firearms Was The Model 82A1, The “First And Only Semi-Automatic .50 Caliber Rifle Available.”** According to the Barrett Firearms Manufacturing website, “After 30-plus years of making history, the powerhouse rifle that started it all is still leading the pack. With its low felt recoil and self-loading action, the Model 82A1 offers rapid, accurate firepower that never slows down. For more than three decades, the Model 82A1 has been carefully honed, studied and then refined again. The result is a feat of engineering so infinitely precise it is hard to believe it's man-made. As the first and only semi-automatic .50 caliber rifle available, the Model 82A1 continues to blaze new territory. Its chamber is chrome-plated and dimensioned for both civilian and military ammunition. The extractor and ejector are proven to work under any condition, and close tolerances on every part allow it to function in all environments. The muzzle brake, dual barrel springs and long mainspring design make this iconic rifle comfortable and exciting to shoot.” [Barrett.net/firearms, accessed [10/7/15](#)]
- **Rolling Stone: The .50 Caliber Rifle And Scope “Enable Clueless Civilians To Hit Targets Like They Were Special-Forces Snipers.”** According to Rolling Stone, “Another board seat belongs to Ronnie Barrett, CEO of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, whose company produces .50-caliber sniper rifles capable of piercing armor from nearly a mile away. Barrett's firm also sells scope-mounted ballistics computers that enable clueless civilians to hit targets like they were special-forces snipers.” [Rolling Stone, [1/31/13](#)]

Barrett Rifles Were “The Darlings Of The Marine Corps’ Scout Snipers And The Army’s Special Forces” But His Biggest Customers Were Civilians. According to Forbes, “Barrett rifles have become the darlings of the Marine Corps’ Scout Snipers and the Army’s Special Forces because they can knock out targets up to 2 miles away and have enough firepower to take down a helicopter, wipe out radar installations or blast through a reinforced bunker. [...] But what keeps Barrett profitable is a different kind of customer: gun collectors and long-range target shooters who fancy ‘bold weapons that can do bold things,’ says Ronnie G. Barrett, the affable 47-year-old founder. His .50-caliber rifles are the largest firearms that can be legally owned by civilians.” [Forbes, [10/1/01](#)]

- **Barrett Rifles Could “Knock Out Targets Up To 2 Miles Away And Have Enough Firepower To Take Down A Helicopter, Wipe Out Radar Installations Or Blast Through A Reinforced Bunker.”** According to Forbes, “Barrett rifles have become the darlings of the Marine Corps’ Scout Snipers and the Army’s Special Forces because they can knock out targets up to 2 miles away and have enough firepower to take down a helicopter, wipe out radar installations or blast through a reinforced bunker.” [Forbes, [10/1/01](#)]
- **Barrett “Wooded Civilians By Promoting The 30-Pound, 5-Foot-Long Rifle As ‘Battle-Proven.’”** According to Forbes, “A savvy promoter, Barrett wooed civilians by promoting the 30-pound, 5-foot-long rifle as ‘battle-proven’ and the ‘most widely used .50 caliber by military organizations around the world.’ Gun buffs like weapons adopted by the military because they have an easy time scoring spare parts—and appreciate the whiff of patriotism. ‘Americans fall in love with the cartridge that saved their country,’ says Barrett.” [Forbes, [10/1/01](#)]
- **Barrett: Hitting A Commercial Plane With His Company’s .50 Caliber Rifle Would Be “Just Like Bird-Hunting.”** According to an opinion by Eli Kintisch for the New Republic, “Manufacturers, eager for military contracts, have actually used the gun's effectiveness against aircraft as a selling point. Tennessee-based Barrett Firearms

Manufacturing, whose 82A1 model is popular with armies around the world, as well as with some enthusiasts, has claimed in marketing material meant for the military that the guns are ‘capable of destroying multimillion-dollar aircraft with a single hit delivered to a vital area.’ In the 1999 federal trial of six men accused of a 1997 assassination attempt on Fidel Castro, Ronnie Barrett, the designer of the .50-caliber rifle and president of Barrett Firearms, testified to his gun's usefulness against commercial planes as they flew toward a sniper's nest. Asked what he deemed the difficulty of hitting a landing airplane with a .50-caliber rifle, he replied, ‘Just like bird-hunting.’ [Eli Kintisch – New Republic, 1/20/03]

Barrett: People Who Want To Make His .50 Caliber Rifle Illegal For Civilians Were “Just Pushing To Take All Guns Away From Civilians.” According to the Post-Standard, “A .50-caliber rifle can shoot down an airplane while it's taking off or landing, bust a hole in half-inch steel and set an oil refinery on fire, according to Andy Pelosi, executive director of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence. And an 18-year-old can buy one in New York state. ‘There's no place in civilian society for this gun. This gun is a weapon of war,’ Pelosi said. Pelosi was in Syracuse Thursday as part of a statewide push to ban the .50-caliber rifle, which uses a bullet that's six inches long and can hit a target from more than a mile away, Pelosi said. The Assembly passed legislation Tuesday that would ban the gun. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate, but it is still in committee. California has banned the .50-caliber from civilian use. [...] The National Rifle Association and Ronnie Barrett, the gun's inventor, said those who want the ban are just pushing to take all guns away from civilians. ‘This has nothing to do with terrorists. It has nothing to do with crime,’ he said. ‘It's about disarming the American public.’ Barrett, president of Barrett Firearms, said the .50-caliber rifle is no more dangerous than any other rifle.” [Post-Standard, 5/27/05]

The NRA Recognized Barrett's Weapons As “Rifle Of The Year” Twice

Barrett Model MRAD Received The NRA's Golden Bullseye Award For “Rifle Of The Year” In 2012. According to the Barrett Firearms Manufacturing website, “2012 Barrett celebrates ‘Three Decades Down Range’ by entering their thirtieth year of innovation. Yet again, a Barrett product receives the honor of a Golden Bullseye Award, this time for the MRAD, for Rifle of the Year from the NRA Publication, Shooting Illustrated. The Golden Bullseye award is a symbol of excellence and innovation in firearms, accessories and related equipment.” [Barrett.net/about, accessed [10/7/15](#)]

Barrett Model 98B Received The NRA's Golden Bullseye Award For “Rifle Of The Year” In 2010. According to the Barrett Firearms Manufacturing website, “2010 Barrett Model 98B® is named the Golden Bullseye winner for Rifle of the Year by NRA publication American Rifleman. The Golden Bullseye award is a symbol of excellence and innovation in firearms, accessories and related equipment.” [Barrett.net/about, accessed [10/7/15](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER STEPHEN HORNADY

Stephen Hornady First Ran For NRA Board In 1994 And Is A Benefactor Member. According to NRA Publications, “An NRA Life member since the early 1970s, Hornady ran for the NRA Board in 1994 because he felt he might have something to offer the association. Now a Benefactor member, Hornady is currently serving his sixth term on the NRA Board. He is vice chairman of the NRA Hunting & Wildlife Conservation Committee, and a member of the Legislative Policy, Membership and Task Force on Industry Relations Committees, the International Affairs Subcommittee and The NRA Foundation Board of Trustees.” [NRAPublications.org, accessed [10/7/10](#)]

Hornady Was Named An NRA Foundation Trustee. According to MSNBC, “Two more gun industry executives sit on the NRA board. One is Ronnie G. Barrett, the CEO of the Tennessee-based Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, who designed the first .50 caliber rifle for civilian use. (Last week Gov. Chris Christie vetoed a bill that would have banned .50 caliber rifles in New Jersey.) Another is Stephen D. Hornady, an NRA board director who, like Kollitides, is an NRA Foundation Trustee. Hornady is the second-generation family CEO of the Nebraskas-based ammunition-making firm, Hornady Manufacturing.” [MSNBC.com, [8/9/13](#)]

Hornady Was President Of Ammunition Manufacturing Company Hornady Manufacturing

Steve Hornady Became President Of Hornady Manufacturing In 1981. According to the Hornady Manufacturing website, “In January 1981, along with engineer Edward Heers and customer service manager Jim Garber, Joyce Hornady was killed when the company plane they were flying crashed en route to the SHOT Show in New Orleans. The linchpin of the company was suddenly gone. The company's founder, visionary, spokesman, leader, and strategist was tragically killed. The

family needed to regroup, and so it did. Steve Hornady became President and sister, Margaret Hornady - David and her husband Don became Vice President and Chief Engineer respectively.” [Hornady.com/about-us, accessed [10/7/15](#)]

Hornady Manufacturing Claimed A Reputation For “Industry Leading Ammunition Development And Innovation.” According to the Hornady Manufacturing website, “It was in the late 1990's that the Hornady reputation for industry leading ammunition development and innovation really emerged. As an independent component manufacturer, not simply an assembler of ammunition, we trained ourselves and built and adapted machinery to help in all facets of product development and manufacturing.” [Hornady.com/about-us, accessed [10/7/15](#)]

Hornady’s Company Slogan Was “Accurate. Deadly. Dependable.” According to Rolling Stone, “The ammunitions side of the industry finds a voice in board member Stephen Hornady, whose company peddles armor-piercing bullets and trades on the slogan ‘Accurate. Deadly. Dependable.’” [Rolling Stone, [1/31/13](#)]

Hornady Manufacturing Was Listed As Being Affiliated With The National Rifle Association. According to the Hornady Manufacturing website, “Hornady was the leading founder of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Heritage Fund, and we support or serve on The National Shooting Sports Foundation, Honored American Veterans Afield, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute, The National Rifle Association, and many others. As a member of the shooting and hunting sports industry, Hornady realizes the need to give back to the sports that keep us in business and maintain our heritage.” [Hornady.com/about-us, accessed [10/7/15](#)]

Hornady Sold “Armor-Piercing” Bullets And Opposed Restrictions On Bullets Alongside The NRA

Hornady Opposed An Effort By The Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms And Explosives To Ban A Particular Type Of “Armor-Piercing Ammunition.” According to Omaha.com, “Two Nebraska firearms businesses are asking customers to speak out against the Obama administration’s proposal to ban a popular rifle bullet. Sidney-based firearm and ammunition retailer Cabela’s and Grand Island ammunition maker Hornady Manufacturing Co. alerted customers to the proposal last week through email and social media, providing addresses to send comments to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The bureau on Feb. 13 quietly submitted a proposal to restrict the 5.56-millimeter M855 bullet, used in an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle for target shooting and hunting, because it can now be classified as ‘armor-piercing ammunition.’ [...] Hornady called the ammunition recently targeted by ATF ‘commonplace’ and said, using language from the NRA, ‘The decision continues Obama’s use of his executive authority to impose gun control restrictions and bypass Congress.’” [Omaha.com, [3/2/15](#)]

In Opposing The Ammunition Ban, Hornady “Used Language From The NRA.” According to Omaha.com, Hornady called the ammunition recently targeted by ATF ‘commonplace’ and said, using language from the NRA, ‘The decision continues Obama’s use of his executive authority to impose gun control restrictions and bypass Congress.’” [Omaha.com, [3/2/15](#)]

Hornady Sold A Line Of Ammunition Called “Zombie Max” To “Supply Yourself For The Zombie Apocalypse.” According to the Hornady Manufacturing website, “Be PREPARED – supply yourself for the Zombie Apocalypse with Zombie Max™ ammunition from Hornady®! Loaded with PROVEN Z-Max™ bullets... yes PROVEN Z-Max™ bullets (have you seen a Zombie?). Make sure your ‘bug out bag’ is ready with nothing but the best!” [Hornady.com/ammunition, accessed [10/7/15](#)]

Hornady Disclaimer: “Hornady® Zombie Max™ Ammunition Is NOT A Toy (IT IS LIVE AMMUNITION)... For Use On ZOMBIES ONLY.” According to the Hornady Manufacturing website, “Disclaimer: Hornady® Zombie Max™ ammunition is NOT a toy (IT IS LIVE AMMUNITION), but is intended only to be used on...ZOMBIES, also known as the living dead, undead, etc. No human being, plant, animal, vegetable or mineral should ever be shot with Hornady® Zombie Max™ ammunition. Again, we repeat, Hornady® Zombie Max™ ammunition is for use on ZOMBIES ONLY, and that's not a nickname, phrase or cute way of referring to anybody, place or thing. When we say Zombies, we mean...ZOMBIES!” [Hornady.com/ammunition, accessed [12/7/15](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER JIM PORTER

Jim Porter Was First Vice President Of The NRA And Became President Of The NRA In 2013. According to the Associated Press, “James Porter, an Alabama attorney and first vice president of the NRA, assumes the presidency on Monday after the group's national convention wraps up in Houston.” [Associated Press, [5/4/13](#)]

Porter Was A Member Of The National Rifle Association’s Board Of Directors. According to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund’s website, “Mr. [Jim] Porter is a member of the National Rifle Association Board of Directors. He served as Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama; appointed Trustee to Alabama Trust Fund Board; founding Trustee, NRA Foundation; former Chairman and present member, NRA Finance Committee; longtime Chairman, NRA Legal Affairs Committee; longtime Chairman, NRA Industry Relations Task Force; Chairman, American Firearms and Shooting Foundation; legal advisor/counsel to NRA in federal court litigation; Vice President, Alabama Rifle & Pistol Association; member, International Municipal Lawyers Association; member, Defense Research Institute; member, Alabama Bar Association (Former Chairman, UPL Committee); former Law Clerk for the Honorable Virgil Pittman, US District Court Judge. Mr. Porter received his law degree from Cumberland School of Law.” [NRADefenseFund.org/officers, accessed [10/26/15](#)]

Porter Was Part Of A Law Firm That Had “Expertise In Defending Gun Manufacturers In Lawsuits” And Headed NRA’s Legal Affairs Committee

Porter Was Part Of The Law Firm Of Porter, Porter & Hassinger, Which Noted Its “Expertise In Defending Gun Manufacturers In Lawsuits.” According to the Associated Press, “Porter, 64, whose father was NRA president from 1959-1961, is part of the small, Birmingham, Ala., law firm of Porter, Porter & Hassinger. The firm's website notes its expertise in defending gun manufacturers in lawsuits.” [Associated Press, [5/4/13](#)]

Porter, Porter & Hassinger Provided Its Services In The Areas Of Products Liability Defense Of Gun Manufacturers As Well As The Manufacturing And Publication Side Of The Gun Industry. According to the profile of Porter, Porter & Hassinger on Yellow Pages, “Established in 1931, Porter, Porter & Hassinger, P.C. is a full-service corporate law firm. Based in Irondale, Ala., the organization specializes in the area of workman's compensation. It offers its service to its wide client base in different categories, including zoning, land use planning, taxation, takings matters, constitutional torts (federal and state), official errors, omissions and misconduct, to name a few. The law firm provides its services in the areas of products liability defense of firearms manufacturers as well as the manufacturing and publication side of the firearms industry.” [YellowPages.com, accessed [10/26/15](#)]

Porter Had “Extensive Experience In The Defense Of Product Liability Claims” Involving Guns, Ammunition And Outdoor Equipment. According to Porter, Porter & Hassinger’s profile on AM Best’s website, “James Porter is a recognized expert in the multi-disciplined area of counseling and defending public entities, officers and officials. David Hassinger is considered an expert in the area of workers compensation, and has lectured extensively on the subject. Both Mr. Porter and Mr. Hassinger have extensive experience in the defense of product liability claims involving firearms, ammunition and outdoor equipment.” [AMBest.com, accessed [10/26/15](#)]

Porter Was Head Of The NRA’s Legal Affairs Committee. According to the Associated Press, “Porter has served as a head of the NRA's legal affairs committee. His legal experience will be counted on to help the organization challenge some of the gun control laws passed in several states around the country in court, [former NRA President David] Keene told the Washington Times.” [Associated Press, [5/4/13](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER WILLIAM H. DAILEY

William H. Dailey Was A Member Of The NRA Board Of Directors And A Member Of The NRA Special Contribution Fund Board Of Directors. According to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund website, “Mr. Dailey is a member of the National Rifle Association Board of Directors and also a member of the Board of Directors of the NRA Special Contribution Fund.” [NRADefenseFund.org, accessed [10/26/15](#)]

Dailey Was An Attorney For Springfield Armory, A Gun Manufacturer

Dailey Was An Attorney For Springfield Armory, Inc, A Gun Manufacturer Based In Illinois. According to the Associated Press, “Thousands of powerful, rapid-fire military weapons are being rebuilt and sold to gun dealers for public

distribution around the country, the Chicago Tribune reported. More than a dozen gunmakers use scraps from the United States military and armies around the world to rebuild battlefield firearms, the Tribune reported in Sunday's editions. The sale of rebuilt military weapons shows the inability of the nation's numerous gun laws to keep some of the most deadly firearms off the streets. Surplus U.S. firearms that are not used in the Civilian Marksmanship Program, a government program to teach marksmanship and gun safety, are supposed to be destroyed or rendered inoperable. But gunmakers say the military does a poor job of crushing the guns. 'If you cut a Chevrolet in half, you may not be able to drive the car, but that doesn't mean you can't use the engine and other parts,' said William Dailey, attorney for Springfield Armory Inc., a gun company based in Geneseo, Ill." [Associated Press, [12/28/97](#)]

1997: As An Attorney For Springfield Armory, Dailey Defended The Practice Of Gun Manufacturers Using Scraps From The U.S. Military And Armies Around The World “To Rebuild Battlefield Firearms” For Commercial Use.

According to the Associated Press, “Thousands of powerful, rapid-fire military weapons are being rebuilt and sold to gun dealers for public distribution around the country, the Chicago Tribune reported. More than a dozen gunmakers use scraps from the United States military and armies around the world to rebuild battlefield firearms, the Tribune reported in Sunday's editions. The sale of rebuilt military weapons shows the inability of the nation's numerous gun laws to keep some of the most deadly firearms off the streets. Surplus U.S. firearms that are not used in the Civilian Marksmanship Program, a government program to teach marksmanship and gun safety, are supposed to be destroyed or rendered inoperable. But gunmakers say the military does a poor job of crushing the guns. 'If you cut a Chevrolet in half, you may not be able to drive the car, but that doesn't mean you can't use the engine and other parts,' said William Dailey, attorney for Springfield Armory Inc., a gun company based in Geneseo, Ill.” [Associated Press, [12/28/97](#)]

Springfield Used “Military Parts To Rebuild M-1 Carbines And Garands.” According to the Chicago Tribune, “Springfield is also using military parts to rebuild M-1 carbines and Garands, two other military rifles, according to company officials. Of U.S. military weapons available to the public through surplus sales, the M-1 carbine is the most abused.” [Chicago Tribune, [12/28/97](#)]

- **The Tribune “Traced One Military Weapon - The Powerful M-1 Carbine - To More Than A Dozen Murders In The 1990s.”** According to the Associated Press, “Dailey said that military rifles are too cumbersome and bulky to be used in crimes. But the Tribune traced one military weapon - the powerful M-1 carbine - to more than a dozen murders in the 1990s. In all of the cases, killers bought weapons at gun shops and shows.” [Associated Press, [12/28/97](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER TODD RATHNER

As Of 2014, Todd Rathner Had Served On The NRA’s Board Of Directors For 14 Years. According to a letter by Todd Rathner published on Ammoland.com, “Todd J. Rathner is a no-compromise Second Amendment Lobbyist and has been fighting for our God given right to bear arms for over 20 years. Todd is running for reelection to the NRA Board of Directors where he has served for 14 years.” [Todd Rathner – Letter via Ammoland.com, [1/23/14](#)]

Rathner Was A Lobbyist For Gun Companies

Rathner Worked As A Lobbyist For Colt’s Manufacturing Co. According to the Arizona Republic, “Three groups were behind most of the measures and carried the most influence behind the scenes at the Legislature: the Tucson-based non-profit Arizona Citizens Defense League, the Washington, D.C.-based National Rifle Association and Tucson lobbyist Todd Rathner, who in the past has represented the NRA and this session worked with Colt's Manufacturing Co.” [Arizona Republic, [7/13/11](#)]

- **Rathner “Successfully Finagled On Behalf Of Colt A Last-Minute Revote To Get The Army Revolver Named The Official State Gun” Of Arizona.** According to the Arizona Republic, “Several smaller bills became law, including making the Colt Single Action Army Revolver the state firearm and redefining the justifications for use of force in defense of a home or vehicle. [...] This year, he [Todd Rathner] successfully finagled on behalf of Colt a last-minute revote to get the Army revolver named the official state gun.” [Arizona Republic, [7/13/11](#)]

Rathner Was The Chief Lobbyist For The American Silencer Association “And Worked In Numerous States To Make Ownership Of Suppressors Easier.” According to a letter by Todd Rathner published on Ammoland.com, “Todd is the chief lobbyist for the American Silencer Association (ASA) and has worked in numerous states to make ownership of

suppressors easier, and to allow hunting with suppressors. He is currently working in numerous states on behalf of the ASA to enable hunting with suppressors as well as working to enact 'Shall Sign' legislation which would compel CLEO's to sign Form 4's unless they can prove that the person applying is a prohibited possessor." [Todd Rathner – Letter via Ammoland.com, [1/23/14](#)]

Rathner Was The Owner Of T. Jeffrey Safari Company. According to tjsafari.com, "Todd J. Rathner is the owner of The T. Jeffrey Safari Company. Todd has been a hunter all of his life. Growing up in New York State he hunted ducks on Long Island and deer in the Catskill Mountains. Currently residing in Tucson Arizona with his wife Tara and sons Isaac and Aaron. Todd avidly pursues game any chance he gets, from desert quail in Arizona to the animals of Africa, Todd is a hunter first." [tjsafari.com, accessed 10/28/15]

- **Tjsafari.com Offered Hunting Advice For Elephants, Lions, Leopards, And Black Rhinos, Among Others.** [tjsafari.com, accessed [10/28/15](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER BOB NOSLER

Bob Nosler Was A NRA Board Member. According to the Nosler website, Bob Nosler was elected to the NRA Board of Directors in 2012. [Nosler.com/Nosler-history, accessed [10/27/15](#)]

Nosler Was President And CEO Of Nosler, Inc., An Ammunition Company

Nosler Was The President And CEO Of Nosler, Inc., The Ammunition Company Founded By His Father.

According the NRA's Shooting Illustrated, "John Amos Nosler, the tall, stately and innovative founder of Nosler, Inc., died of natural causes at his Bend, OR, home on Sunday, Oct. 10 at the age of 97. Considered one of the shooting industry's true pioneers, Nosler developed the famous Partition bullet in the late 1940s. Its concept and design served as the cornerstone of the company founded in 1948, and it continues to influence the premium bullet category and ammunition industry 62 years later. [...] Today, Nosler bullets are considered the gold standard among many shooters and hunters worldwide. In recognition of his contributions to the shooting sports industry, Nosler was the unanimous choice for the inaugural NRA Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award in 2007, marking a personal highlight of a long and productive career. Today, his son Bob Nosler presides over the company as president and CEO." [ShootingIllustrated.com, [10/20/10](#)]

Nosler Advertised For The NRA On Its Website. According to the Nosler website, there was an advertisement for the NRA on the website. [Nosler.com/ballistic-tip-ammunition, accessed [10/28/15](#)]

NRA Website: "Nosler Encourages You To Join The National Rifle Association." According to a graphic on the Nation Rifle Association's website, "Nosler encourages you to join the National Rifle Association." [Membership.NRAHQ.org, accessed [10/28/15](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER R. LEE "THE GUNNY" ERMEY

Actor R. Lee Ermey Was A NRA Board Member. According to the NRA Blog, "R. Lee Ermey, aka 'The Gunny', used his career as a United States Marine Corps drill instructor in numerous military acting roles including the role of Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in Stanley Kubrick's Full Metal Jacket. The Gunny is passionate about firearms and, as a result, is a NRA board member." [NRABlog.com, [7/14/15](#)]

Ermey Was An "Ambassador" For Glock Firearms

Ermey Was Named An "Ambassador" For Glock Firearms. According to the Glock website, "When it came to determining exactly who would be best to represent GLOCK in the USA, everyone at GLOCK unanimously felt 'The Gunny' would be a perfect fit. Yet the truth is: you don't choose him, he chooses you. Fortunately, we had a head start with the man who has, '... seen it all and shot 'em all.' Still, we put a stock G37 in his hands and he took it out to the back forty for a Gunny torture test. After 5,000 rounds and zero cleaning, it shot just as good as when he pulled it out of the box. Case closed. We were 'The Gunny Approved!' Over the years, the union between GLOCK and R. Lee Ermey has grown from the boardroom to a brilliant relationship and a shared vision. [...] All of us at GLOCK are eminently proud to have such an extraordinary man

serve as an ambassador for our products and our company. We salute his contributions—past, present, and future.”
[US.Glock.com/team, accessed [10/28/15](#)]

- **Glock Donated \$115,000 To The NRA In 2015, Presented By ErmeY At The NRA Annual Meeting.** According to a Glock press release, “GLOCK, Inc. made significant donations at the recent 144th NRA Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn. The donation ceremony took place at the GLOCK booth (#633) and was attended by industry media. Josh Dorsey, VP at GLOCK, and GLOCK spokesman, R. Lee ErmeY, The “Gunny,” presented the checks on April 10, 2015. [...]1. \$50,000 to the National Rifle Association (NRA). Since 2010, GLOCK has donated \$300k to the NRA, America’s foremost defender of Second Amendment rights; the organization advocates for the promotion of firearm ownership, as well as marksmanship, firearm safety and the protection of hunting and self-defense in the United States. 2. \$50,000 to the NRA Whittington Center. Since 2010, GLOCK has donated \$300k to the NRA Whittington Center, the most comprehensive shooting facility in America today, complete with 15 shooting ranges, classrooms and a dining facility. It hosts recreational shooting and guided hunts as well as camping, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding activities. 3. \$15,000 to the NRA Whittington Center Adventure Camp. Since 2005, GLOCK has donated \$165k to the NRA Whittington Center Adventure Camp, a unique place where young men and women have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of pistol, rifle and shotgun shooting in a positive environment.” [Glock Press Release, [4/20/15](#)]
- **Glock Also Donated \$115,000 To The NRA In 2012.** According to Shooting Industry, “Glock Inc. donated \$115,000 to the NRA and several of its organizations during the 2012 NRA Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Glock Vice President Gary Fletcher and company spokesman R. Lee ErmeY made check presentations to the NRA (\$50,000), the NRA Whittington Center (\$50,000) and Whittington Center's Adventure Camp (\$15,000). In addition, Glock donated 30 pistols to the NRA Law Enforcement Division (LED). ‘There are millions of NRA members and thousands of certified NRA firearms instructors who continue to protect our Second Amendment rights and help promote firearms safety. It's important for us at Glock to recognize that commitment by supporting the NRA and its affiliate organizations,’ Fletcher said. This is the third consecutive year Glock has made a \$50,000 donation to the NRA.” [Shooting Industry, 6/1/12]

ErmeY Started Working With Glock Around 2003. According to an interview with R. Lee ErmeY for Guns & Ammo, “I’ve been working with Glock for 11 years now. The reason I choose to work with Glock? I don't have to lie about it. If it's not the best product, they won't put it out.” [Guns & Ammo, [6/10/14](#)]

- **ErmeY: My Go-To Pistol Is The Glock.** According to an interview with R. Lee ErmeY for Guns & Ammo, “I’m partial to an M1911, but it requires a lot of maintenance and needs to be cleaned and cared for. It can’t hold a candle to the Glock, and the new G41 is my favorite .45. It was introduced at SHOT Show. I love it because it has the recoil of a 9mm.” [Guns & Ammo, [6/10/14](#)]

ErmeY Has Appeared In Commercials For Glock. According to R. Lee ErmeY’s YouTube channel, ErmeY has appeared in commercials for Glock. [YouTube.com/user/GunnyRLeeErmeY, accessed [10/29/15](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER CHARLES COTTON

Charles Cotton Was A National Rifle Association Board Member. According to Politico, “A board member for the National Rifle Association blamed the gun-control position of South Carolina state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, a pastor who was killed in Wednesday night’s shooting at a historic black church in Charleston, for the deaths of his congregation. If had voted to allow gun owners to carry their own weapons, Charles Cotton wrote, ‘eight of his church members ... might be alive.’” [Politico, [6/19/15](#)]

As An Attorney, Cotton Represented Texas Shooting Ranges & Claimed He Wrote A Bill That Offered Shooting Ranges “Extensive Protection”

Cotton Represented Sport Shooting Ranges In Texas. According to CottonFarrell.com, “Recently, Mr. Cotton has been primarily representing sport shooting ranges in Texas, having written a bill for the 2011 Texas Legislative Session that was passed as Senate Bill 766.” [CottonFarrell.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

Cotton Claimed To Have “Written A Bill For The 2011 Texas Legislative Session That Was Passed As Senate Bill 766.” According to CottonFarrell.com, “Recently, Mr. Cotton has been primarily representing sport shooting ranges in Texas,

having written a bill for the 2011 Texas Legislative Session that was passed as Senate Bill 766. This law provides extensive protection to Texas sport shooting ranges and Mr. Cotton tried and won the first case under the new law. Since then, he has represented and consulted with other Texas shooting clubs and ranges.” [CottonFarrell.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

- **The Law Provided “Extensive Protection To Texas Sport Shooting Ranges And Mr. Cotton Tried And Won The First Case Under The New Law.”** According to CottonFarrell.com, “Recently, Mr. Cotton has been primarily representing sport shooting ranges in Texas, having written a bill for the 2011 Texas Legislative Session that was passed as Senate Bill 766. This law provides extensive protection to Texas sport shooting ranges and Mr. Cotton tried and won the first case under the new law. Since then, he has represented and consulted with other Texas shooting clubs and ranges.” [CottonFarrell.com, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER SANDY FROMAN

Sandy Froman Was A Former Vice President, President, And Current Lifetime-Member Of The NRA Executive Council. According to a bio from the Santa Barbara Tea Party & Culpepper Society, “A member of the National Rifle Association Board of Directors since 1992, Froman served for seven years as a vice president and two years as president after which she was unanimously elected to the NRA Executive Council for life. Froman is only the second woman elected as president since the NRA was founded in 1871. She has represented the NRA internationally at the United Nations, the International Trade Fair for Hunting and Sporting Arms (IWA), the World Forum on the Future of the Shooting Sports (WFFSA), and the Swiss Federal Shooting Festival.” [Santa Barbara Tea Party, accessed [10/28/15](#)]

Froman Praised And Defended The Gun Industry

After NRA Lobbyists “Helped Win Passage Of A Federal Law That Limited Liability Claims Against Gun Makers,” Froman Wrote That The NRA “Saved The American Gun Industry From Bankruptcy.” According to Bloomberg, “More than 50 firearms-related companies have given at least \$14.8 million to the Fairfax, Virginia-based group, according to the NRA’s own list for a donor program that began in 2005. That same year, NRA lobbyists helped win passage of a federal law that limited liability claims against gun makers. Former NRA President Sandy Froman wrote that it ‘saved the American gun industry from bankruptcy.’” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

Froman: “You Need To Understand... The Gun Industry Is The Most Heavily Regulated Industry In America.” According to Moment, “[Sandy] Froman tells me that though she doesn’t have children, she imagines, ‘as a responsible parent, you would want to check out any home your child was going into: Is there a fence around the pool? Do the parents smoke crack cocaine?’ She stresses that the NRA is concerned about safety—that’s why the group encourages kids to take gun safety lessons. ‘You need to understand,’ she tells me, ‘the gun industry is the most heavily regulated industry in America.’ Powers and his colleague nod vigorously in agreement.” [Moment, [November-December 2006](#)]

Shooting Industry: “Froman Thanked The Industry For Its New Campaign To Boost NRA Membership Before The November 2008 Elections.” According to Shooting Industry, “[Sandy] Froman thanked the industry for its new campaign to boost NRA membership before the November 2008 elections.” [Shooting Industry, 9/1/07]

Froman: “I’m Really Thrilled The Industry Has Stepped Forward To Help The NRA Build Its Membership.” According to Shooting Industry, “[Sandy] Froman thanked the industry for its new campaign to boost NRA membership before the November 2008 elections. ‘I’m really thrilled the industry has stepped forward to help the NRA build its membership,’ Froman said.” [Shooting Industry, 9/1/07]

Shooting Industry: “The Massive Industry-Driven Campaign To Strengthen The NRA’s Membership Involves Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors And Dealers And Is Backed By Media Promotions, Membership Discounts, And Recruitment Sweepstakes.” According to Shooting Industry, “The massive industry-driven campaign to strengthen the NRA’s membership involves manufacturers, importers, distributors and dealers and is [sic] backed by media promotions, membership discounts and recruitment sweepstakes.” [Shooting Industry, 9/1/07]

Froman: “The Firearms Industry Has Been Part Of The Fabric Of America For Generations. We Can’t Forget That And We Can’t Let Those Who Want To Take Over This Country Change Our History, Our Tradition And Our Values.” According to Shooting Industry, “The massive industry-driven campaign to strengthen the NRA’s membership

involves manufacturers, importers, distributors and dealers and is [sic] backed by media promotions, membership discounts and recruitment sweepstakes. ‘Our freedom always seems to be under attack,’ [Sandy] Froman said. ‘That’s because there are many people outside this country, and also many people in this country, who are jealous of the kind of freedom we have and [sic] have had since this country was founded. ‘The firearms industry has been part of the fabric of America for generations. We can’t forget that and we can’t let those who want to take over this country change our history, our tradition and our values. That’s just wrong. And we’re not going to let it happen!’” [Shooting Industry, 9/1/07]

Shooting Industry: “Froman Made It Clear That Building A Strong NRA Goes Beyond Preserving The Second Amendment And The Industry.” According to Shooting Industry, “[Sandy] Froman made it clear that building a strong NRA goes beyond preserving the Second Amendment and the industry.” [Shooting Industry, 9/1/07]

NRA Supported Policies That Enriched The Industry

THE NRA’S LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES OFTEN BOOSTED SALES FOR GUN MANUFACTURERS

Bloomberg: “At About The Same Time The NRA Began Seeking More In Contributions, Its Lobbying Arm, The Institute For Legislative Affairs, Notched Political Successes That Benefited The Firearms Industry.” According to Bloomberg, “At about the same time the NRA began seeking more in contributions, its lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Affairs, notched political successes that benefited the firearms industry. In 2004, ILA lobbyists helped ensure the end of the federal assault weapons ban; U.S. makers’ annual rifle production has increased about 38 percent since, according to ATF data.” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

Former ATF Agent William Vizzard: The NRA And The Gun Industry Have “A Symbiotic Relationship. They Have Co-Aligned Goals Much More Than 30 Or 40 Years Ago.” According to the Huffington Post, “‘The NRA clearly benefits from the gun industry,’” William Vizzard, a former agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, told The Huffington Post. ‘There’s a symbiotic relationship. They have co-aligned goals much more than 30 or 40 years ago.’ Vizzard noted that the gun industry has evolved slowly in recent decades from a ‘stodgy and conservative’ business, which sold mostly rifles and sporting arms, to one that now traffics in paramilitary weapons and handguns. The NRA and the gun industry ‘have grown closer as the business has changed,’ he said.” [Huffington Post, [1/11/13](#)]

Vizzard: “Unlike Organizations Which Start Out Controlled By Industry And Created By Industry,” The NRA “Really Started Out As A Grassroots Organization And Became An Industry Organization.” According to Bloomberg, “‘Unlike organizations which start out controlled by industry and created by industry, like lobbying groups for coal or oil, they really started out as a grassroots organization and became an industry organization,’ said William Vizzard, a former agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who’s now a professor of criminal justice at California State University in Sacramento. He studied the NRA for a 2000 book on gun policy.” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

The NRA Promised Gun Manufacturers In A Promotional Brochure That Its “Ring Of Freedom” Fundraising Program Was “Geared Towards Your Company’s Corporate Interests.” According to a study by the Violence Policy Center, “According to the NRA, ‘The NRA Corporate Partners Program enables businesses and organizations to help ensure the future of America’s hunting and shooting traditions. Those that make a commitment to the NRA are recognized at various Ring of Freedom levels.’ Under the heading ‘Corporate Strategic Giving’ the NRA adds, ‘Companies can make a commitment to support any area of the NRA’s mission and vision through outright financial support in an effort to raise significant funds to secure the future of the NRA.’ In a promotional brochure for the program, NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre promises that the ‘National Rifle Association’s newly expanded Corporate Partners Program is an opportunity for corporations to partner with the NRA....This program is geared toward your company’s corporate interests.’” [Violence Policy Center, [April 2011](#)]

Annual U.S. Handgun Production “More Than Doubled” Between 2002 And 2012. According to Bloomberg, “Annual U.S. handgun production has more than doubled over the past decade. Sturm, Ruger was the leading U.S.-based producer in 2009, the most recent year for which the ATF has published data. Kevin Reid, general counsel for Sturm, Ruger, didn’t return calls seeking comment. Representatives for other gun companies that gave to the NRA this year also didn’t respond to requests for comment.” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

THE NRA SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED TO SHIELD GUN MANUFACTURERS FROM LIABILITY FOR GUN DEATHS

The Passage Of A Law That Shields “Firearms Manufacturers And Dealers From Liability Lawsuits...Has For Years Been The No. 1 Legislative Priority Of The National Rifle Association.” According to The New York Times, “The Republican-controlled Congress delivered a long-sought victory to the gun industry on Thursday when the House voted to shield firearms manufacturers and dealers from liability lawsuits. The bill now goes to President Bush, who has promised to sign it. The gun liability bill has for years been the No. 1 legislative priority of the National Rifle Association, which has lobbied lawmakers intensely for it. Its final passage, by a vote of 283 to 144, with considerable Democratic support, reflected the changing politics of gun control, an issue many Democrats began shying away from after Al Gore, who promoted it, was defeated in the 2000 presidential race.” [New York Times, [10/21/05](#)]

- **The Law Was Signed By President George W. Bush In October 2005.** According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “President George W. Bush today signed into law the National Rifle Association (NRA)-backed ‘Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act’ (S. 397) ending politically motivated lawsuits designed to bankrupt law-abiding American firearm manufacturers and retailers. S. 397 passed both chambers in Congress with broad bipartisan support.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [10/26/05](#)]
- **Then-Senator Larry Craig Sponsored The Measure “While Serving As A Member Of The NRA’s Board Of Directors.”** According to a post on the NRA-ILA’s website, “Early this week, the Senate Ethics Committee officially dismissed a complaint lodged by the gun-ban group, the Brady Campaign, against U.S. Senator Larry Craig (R-Id.). The Brady Campaign’s feeble complaint centered around the fact that Senator Craig sponsored the Protection of Lawful Commerce In Arms Act (S. 659/S. 1805) while serving as a member of NRA’s Board of Directors.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [5/28/04](#)]

New York Times Columnist Jim Dwyer: The Arms Act “Has Smothered Lawsuits By Cities Around The Country...That Sought To Force Manufacturers To Be More Careful In How They Sold And Distributed Guns.” According to columnist Jim Dwyer for The New York Times, “For happier faces, you could look at a picture taken in the Oval Office when President George W. Bush signed a bill in 2005. Surrounded by beaming gun manufacturers, Mr. Bush put the final touch — his signature — on a piece of legislation that would make it very difficult for anyone hurt by gun violence to sue the makers for injuries. And why wouldn’t they be smiling? The law signed that day, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, has smothered lawsuits by cities around the country, including by New York, that sought to force manufacturers to be more careful in how they sold and distributed guns.” [Jim Dwyer - New York Times, [5/28/13](#)]

NRA Executive VP Wayne LaPierre Said The Gun Liability Bill “Was The Most Significant Victory For The Gun Lobby Since Congress Rewrote The Federal Gun Control Law In 1986.” According to The New York Times, “The gun liability bill has for years been the No. 1 legislative priority of the National Rifle Association, which has lobbied lawmakers intensely for it. Its final passage, by a vote of 283 to 144, with considerable Democratic support, reflected the changing politics of gun control, an issue many Democrats began shying away from after Al Gore, who promoted it, was defeated in the 2000 presidential race. ‘It’s a historic piece of legislation,’ said Wayne LaPierre, the association’s chief executive, who said the bill was the most significant victory for the gun lobby since Congress rewrote the federal gun control law in 1986. ‘As of Oct. 20, the Second Amendment is probably in the best shape in this country that it’s been in decades.’” [New York Times, [10/21/05](#)]

Parents Of Aurora Shooting Victim Lost A Case Against The Ammunition Company That Sold To The Shooter Because Of The Liability Law, And Had To Pay Over \$200,000

Lonnie and Sandy Phillips, The Parents Of A Woman Who Was Killed In The Aurora, CO Theater Shooting, Tried To Sue The Online Company That Sold Ammunition To The Shooter, But The Case Was Dismissed Because Of The Arms Act. According to an op-ed by the parents of Jessica Ghawi, who was killed in the 2012 Aurora, Colorado theater mass shooting, Lonnie and Sandy Phillips, for the Huffington Post, “We have been getting a lot of questions about our lawsuit against Lucky Gunner, the online company that sold ammunition to the man who murdered our daughter Jessica along with 11 others in an Aurora, Colorado, theater. Especially after the Rachel Maddow Show covered us twice, people ask us about the judge’s order that we pay Lucky Gunner’s attorneys’ fees, since our lawsuit was unsuccessful. [...] The judge dismissed our case because, he said, these online sellers had special immunity from the general duty to use reasonable care under the federal

Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act and a Colorado immunity law. If you couple the PLCAA law with Colorado's law HB 000-208, (which says in essence: If you bring a civil case against a gun or ammunition seller and the case is dismissed then the plaintiff must pay all the defendant's costs), you have an impenetrable barrier to using the judicial system to effect change in gun legislation in Colorado.” [Lonnie and Sandy Phillips – Huffington Post, [9/25/15](#)]

Lonnie and Sandy Phillips: “Everyone Else In Society Has A Duty To Use Reasonable Care To Not Injure Others -- Except Gun And Ammunition Sellers.” According to an op-ed by the parents of Jessica Ghawi, who was killed in the 2012 Aurora, Colorado theater mass shooting, Lonnie and Sandy Phillips, for the Huffington Post, “The judge dismissed our case because, he said, these online sellers had special immunity from the general duty to use reasonable care under the federal Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act and a Colorado immunity law. If you couple the PLCAA law with Colorado's law HB 000-208, (which says in essence: If you bring a civil case against a gun or ammunition seller and the case is dismissed then the plaintiff must pay all the defendant's costs), you have an impenetrable barrier to using the judicial system to effect change in gun legislation in Colorado. Everyone else in society has a duty to use reasonable care to not injure others -- except gun and ammunition sellers.” [Lonnie and Sandy Phillips – Huffington Post, [9/25/15](#)]

The Judge Ordered That The Phillips Pay \$203,000 To The Company Lucky Gunner, Which Planned To Use The Money “To Fund The NRA And Like-Minded Groups.” According to an op-ed by the parents of Jessica Ghawi, who was killed in the 2012 Aurora, Colorado theater mass shooting, Lonnie and Sandy Phillips, for the Huffington Post, “To make matters worse, the judge ordered that we pay \$203,000. This is an outrageous amount, especially given that this case was decided after one single motion! Lucky Gunner has said that it is going to donate all these fees to ‘gun rights’ groups. The thought is disgusting to us that Lucky Gunner does not even plan to use this money to pay for their attorney's fees. Lucky Gunner wants to use blood money to fund the NRA and like-minded groups. See for yourself. Check out Lucky Gunner's self-serving description of our case then click on ‘Head Here’ (the green words at the end of Lucky Gunner's last sentence) to find out how the money is to be distributed.” [Lonnie and Sandy Phillips – Huffington Post, [9/25/15](#)]

Passage Of The Arms Act Saved Gun Manufacturers Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars And Kept Them From Having To Testify On Their Unwillingness To Do Anything To Keep Guns Out Of The Hands Of Criminals

“More Than 30 Cities, Counties Or States Filed Suit Against Gun Makers Beginning In The Late 1990s” Alleging That The “Industry Was Negligent, Or Willfully Blind, In Its Sales Practices.” According to The New York Times, “In all, more than 30 cities, counties or states filed suit against gun makers beginning in the late 1990s. The theory behind the litigation — that the industry was negligent, or willfully blind, in its sales practices — was similar to the one employed in the successful suits against tobacco companies that same decade.” [New York Times, [5/27/13](#)]

NRA-ILA Estimated That The Gun Industry “Had To Spend Over \$200 Million” In Legal Costs For Liability Suits Before The Arms Act Was Signed Into Law. According to a post on the NRA-ILA's website, “On October 26, 2005, President Bush signed S. 397, the ‘Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.’ Introduced by Sens. Larry Craig (R-ID) and Max Baucus (D-MT), this legislation is a vitally important first step toward ending the anti-gun lobby's shameless attempts to bankrupt the American firearms industry through reckless lawsuits. [...] These lawsuits seek a broad range of remedies relating to product design and marketing. Their demands, if granted, would create major restrictions on interstate commerce in firearms and ammunition, including unwanted design changes, burdensome sales policies, and higher costs for consumers. While the suits are unwarranted, the firearms industry has had to spend over \$200 million in defense.” [NRA-ILA.org/articles, [4/1/10](#)]

Smith & Wesson CFO John Kelly In 2005: “Primarily The Benefit That We See” From The Arms Act “Is The Potential Savings Going Forward.” According to the transcript of a 2005 Q4 Smith & Wesson earnings conference call, “JOHN KELLY: “The legal side of the matter is that, at this point we are still waiting for that law [Lawful Commerce in Arms Act] to pass see what happens within the courts on the existing cases. What that will transpire is that we've reserved for the cases that have been on the books, there is insurance coverage offsetting some of those cases, what you are looking at is the potential savings going forward, if there were additional cases. That's primarily the benefit that we see from this legislation. And then perhaps the greatest benefit is that it takes that particular cloud out of the picture.” [Q4 Smith & Wesson earnings conference call, 8/15/05]

The Same Year The Arms Act Passed The NRA “Launched A New Fundraising Drive Targeting Firearms Companies The Organization Had Just Helped In A Big Way”

Huffington Post: “Following The Passage Of The Shield Law...The NRA Launched A New Fundraising Drive Targeting Firearms Companies The Organization Had Just Helped In A Big Way.” According to the Huffington Post, “Following the passage of the shield law that dismembered those lawsuits, the NRA launched a new fundraising drive targeting firearms companies the organization had just helped in a big way. That effort, dubbed ‘Ring of Freedom,’ paid off handsomely. Since 2005, the NRA drive has pulled in \$14.7 million to \$38.9 million from dozens of gun industry giants, including Beretta USA, Glock and Sturm, Ruger, according to a 2011 study by the Violence Policy Center, a group that favors gun control. The Violence Policy Center study cited an NRA promotional brochure about the corporate partnership drive, noting that LaPierre promised that ‘this program is geared towards your company’s corporate interests.’” [Huffington Post, [1/11/13](#)]

“The NRA’s ‘Ring Of Freedom,’ A Donor-Recognition Program, Began In 2005.” According to Bloomberg, “The NRA’s ‘Ring of Freedom,’ a donor-recognition program, began in 2005, according to the association’s website. The NRA’s Office of Advancement solicits contributions from companies, foundations and individuals. Gregory, the chief executive officer of Gregory Management Co., an investment firm in Bristol, is part of a more exclusive group called the Golden Ring of Freedom. Its members, who have contributed at least \$1 million, wear custom-tailored gold jackets at NRA gatherings. He referred questions to the NRA staff.” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

THE NRA SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED THE SPREAD OF CONCEALED CARRY LAWS AND INCREASED GUN SALES, WAS PRAISED BY GUN INDUSTRY

New York Times: The Success Of A National Campaign By The NRA To “Push Back” Against Limits On Guns “Is Reflected In The Rapid Spread Of...Laws That Legalize The Carrying Of Concealed Weapons.” According to The New York Times, “Critics see the laws as part of a national campaign by the National Rifle Association, which began gathering on Thursday in St. Louis for its annual meeting, to push back against limits on gun ownership and use. [...] The success of the campaign is reflected in the rapid spread of expanded self-defense laws as well as laws that legalize the carrying of concealed weapons. Only one state, Illinois, and the District of Columbia now ban that practice, compared with 19 states in 1981. Bills pending in several states that would allow concealed weapons to be carried on college campuses, in churches, in bars or at other sites would further weaken restrictions, as would either of two federal bills, now in the Senate, that would require that a permit for carrying a concealed weapon that was granted by any state be honored in all other states.” [New York Times, [4/12/12](#)]

“Over The Years, The N.R.A. Has Deployed Armies Of Lobbyists Around The Country To Knock Back Efforts To Regulate Guns And Expand Owners’ Ability To Carry Concealed Weapons In Schools, Parks, Bars And Churches.” According to The New York Times, “Over the years, the N.R.A. has deployed armies of lobbyists around the country to knock back efforts to regulate guns and expand owners’ ability to carry concealed weapons in schools, parks, bars and churches. It has formed close partnerships with gun makers and business organizations around the country, working to protect manufacturers from liability and introduce model bills in state legislatures.” [New York Times, [12/17/12](#)]

The NRA Funded A Lawsuit To Legalize Concealed Carry In Illinois

The NRA Funded A Lawsuit To Legalize Concealed Carry In Illinois. According to an article in the NRA’s Shooting Illustrated, “The plaintiff in a court case that ultimately led to the passage of legislation that legalized concealed carry of firearms for personal protection in Illinois took a symbolic stroll to her mailbox this week, where she enthusiastically retrieved one of the first state-issued permits, one bearing her name. [...] In her lawsuit filed May 13, 2011 in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, [Mary] Shepard contended that had she been permitted to carry a firearm for protection outside her home, she might have been able to thwart the attack. She was already trained with firearms, held a valid state firearm owner's (FOID) card and had received carry permits from two other states. The National Rifle Association funded and supported Shepard's case. The Illinois State Rifle and Pistol Association served as co-plaintiff. It was Shepard's lawsuit that led the U.S. Appellate Court to hold Illinois long-standing ban carrying of firearms outside the home to be unconstitutional. That action led to the 2013 passage of a concealed carry law that made Illinois the last state to permit its law-abiding citizens to carry handguns for personal protection.” [ShootingIllustrated.com, [3/7/14](#)]

- **The Ban On “Carrying Of Firearms Outside The Home” Was Found To Be Unconstitutional As A Result Of The Lawsuit And “Led To The 2013 Passage Of A Concealed Carry Law.”** According to an article in the NRA’s Shooting Illustrated, “It was Shepard’s lawsuit that led the U.S. Appellate Court to hold Illinois long-standing ban carrying of firearms outside the home to be unconstitutional. That action led to the 2013 passage of a concealed carry law that made Illinois the last state to permit its law-abiding citizens to carry handguns for personal protection.” [ShootingIllustrated.com, [3/7/14](#)]

Former NRA President Marion Hammer “Authored A Landmark Concealed-Carry Law” Which Was Subsequently Passed By 40 Other States; She Also Pushed For A Bill To Allow Tax Collectors To Issue Concealed Weapons Permits Despite The Fact That They Were Not Legally Allowed To Conduct Background Checks

Bloomberg: Former NRA President Marion “Hammer Authored A Landmark Concealed-Carry Law In Florida That By Her Last Count Had Been Passed By 40 Other States.” According to Bloomberg, “[Marion] Hammer authored a landmark concealed-carry law in Florida that by her last count had been passed by 40 other states.” [Bloomberg, [5/17/12](#)]

Hammer Also Supported A Bill Allowing Tax Collectors To Issue Concealed Weapons Permits. According to the Laker/Lutz News, “Tax collectors could issue concealed weapons permit under new bill [...] Tax collectors could soon accept applications for concealed weapons or firearms. State Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, and State Rep. James Grant, R-Tampa, have passed legislation that would allow county tax collectors the ability to be appointed to accept such applications. ‘Allowing tax collectors to assist applicants in their home counties is not only a convenience for citizens, it makes sense all around,’ said Marion Hammer, executive director of Unified Sportsmen of Florida and a past NRA president, in a release.” [Laker/Lutz News, [4/25/14](#)]

Everytown For Gun Safety Noted That Tax Collectors Were “Not Criminal Justice Agencies And Cannot Conduct NICS Checks.” According to Guns.com, “We oppose HB523 and HB525 because they expand the already flawed CCW-permitting system in Florida by allowing tax collectors (who are also not criminal justice agencies and cannot conduct NICS checks) to accept CCW applications,” said Erika Soto Lamb, Communications Director of Everytown for Gun Safety to Guns.com.” [Guns.com, [4/28/14](#)]

After Wisconsin Allowed Concealed Carry Licenses The CEO Of Gun Maker Sturm Ruger, Mike Fifer, Said On An Earnings Call That He Expected A Sales Boost In The State”

Four Weeks After The Concealed Carry Law Took Effect In Wisconsin, Gun Sales “Jumped.” According to the Chicago Tribune, “Wisconsin’s concealed carry law isn’t even a month old, but thousands of your friends and neighbors already have permission to pack heat and they’re buying up the hardware to do it. [...] In the four weeks since the law took effect, gun sales have jumped. The Justice Department’s handgun hotline, a number gun sellers can call to initiate background checks on would-be gun buyers, had received 7,355 calls between Nov. 1 and Monday; the line has averaged about 6,550 calls per month throughout the year. The record for monthly calls is 7,859. Roger Wendling, owner of Monsoor’s Sport Shop in La Crosse, estimates he’s seen a 25 percent to 30 percent increase in handgun sales this month. Some of the more popular models have been .38-caliber Sig Sauer’s and Smith & Wesson .38-caliber revolvers, both small, snub-nosed weapons that are easy to hide.” [Chicago Tribune, [11/24/11](#)]

- **“After Wisconsin Became The 49th State To Allow Concealed Carry Licenses The CEO Of Gun Maker Sturm Ruger, Mike Fifer, Said On An Earnings Call “That He Expected A Sales Boost In The State.”** According to Bloomberg, “The ‘Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act’ helped end the suits, according to Mike Fifer, the CEO of Sturm Ruger. [...] Sturm Ruger has benefited from another NRA lobbying effort, a decades-long campaign in U.S. statehouses for laws allowing permits to carry concealed weapons. After Wisconsin became the 49th state to allow such licenses in July, Fifer said on an earnings call that he expected a sales boost in the state.” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

Headline: “Midwestern Gun Dealers See Boost in Business From Illinois Concealed-Carry Law.” [Personal Defense World, [7/18/13](#)]

Illinois Gun Shops Saw The Concealed-Carry Law “Drive Compact Gun Sales.” According to My Suburban Life, “Despite the traditional summer slowdown, area gun retailers are seeing elevated handgun sales primarily from customers

wanting to put new concealed-carry permits to use. [...] Gun manufacturer Colt is working to boost handgun production by 50 percent, while Smith & Wesson's handgun sales increased by nearly a third at the end of 2013. In Illinois, gun shops from Marengo, McHenry and East Dundee have seen the new concealed-carry law drive compact gun sales." [My Suburban Life, [6/29/14](#)]

Concealed Carry Laws Increased Gun Sales For Weapons Manufacturers; NRA Lobbyist: "The Gun Industry Should Send Me A Basket Of Fruit -- Our Efforts Have Created A New Market"

NRA Lobbyist Tanya Metaska On The NRA's Successful Push For Concealed Carry Laws: "The Gun Industry Should Send Me A Basket Of Fruit -- Our Efforts Have Created A New Market." According to the Wall Street Journal "Demand for the ultracompacts has also been fueled by a growing number of states -- now 31 -- that have passed conceal-and-carry laws, which give law-abiding citizens the right to carry concealed weapons. The laws, backed by the National Rifle Association, are predicated on the belief that citizens have a constitutional right to self-defense but that openly carrying a weapon might incite Old West-style mayhem. 'The gun industry should send me a basket of fruit -- our efforts have created a new market.' quips Tanya Metaska, the NRA's chief lobbyist, who moved into high gear on conceal-and-carry laws after the federal crime bill passed." [Wall Street Journal, [9/12/96](#)]

NBC News: "The 'Right-To-Carry' Movement Has Succeeded In Boosting The Number Of Licensed Concealed-Gun Carriers From Fewer Than 1 Million To A Record 6 Million" In 2010. According to NBC News, "From its beginnings in the 1980s, the 'right-to-carry' movement has succeeded in boosting the number of licensed concealed-gun carriers from fewer than 1 million to a record 6 million today, according to estimates from gun-rights groups that are supported by msnbc.com's research. And while hotly debated, the effect of this dramatic increase is largely unknown. Gun enthusiasts claim a link between more private citizens carrying concealed weapons and the nation's dramatic decrease in violent crime. Gun-control activists argue that concealed-carry permits are being handed out to people who should never get them, sometimes resulting in tragic, needless shootings." [NBC News, [6/24/10](#)]

Sturm Ruger President Michael Fifer: Concealed Carry Laws Were "Key" To The Company, Because They Meant Sturm Ruger's "Blockbuster" Products, Compact Pistols And Revolvers, Weren't In Danger Of Being Banned.

According to the transcript of a 2009 Q2 Sturm Ruger earnings conference call, "Michael Fifer: [...] 'Okay, let's go to the next one. One of the major changes in the industry now as this surge is starting to wind down compared to say the surge in 1994, is that 1994 there weren't very many states that allowed concealed carry and today there are many states that allow concealed carry. [...] For example, I can point out to you very quickly that in Ohio permits are for a certain fixed period of time and then when you renew them it looks like a brand new application. And so you've got some of that going on. So take those statistics on the right with some caution, but look at you know the blue and the yellow on those states and you can see that pretty much most of the country you now have the right to carry a firearm, okay. And why is it that key? That's key because two of our new Blockbuster products -- the light weight compact pistol and the light weight compact revolver which we call LCP and LCR -- directly address this TCW market and, therefore, are less likely to be affected by some future firearms ban, okay?'" [Q2 Sturm Ruger earnings conference call, 7/30/09]

Smith & Wesson President And CEO James Debney The Popularity Of Smith & Wesson's M&P Shield, SDVE And Bodyguard 380 Pistols Demonstrates "Ongoing Consumer Preference For Our Concealed Carry Firearms."

According to the transcript of a 2015 Q4 Smith & Wesson earnings call, "James Debney: [...] 'In firearms, handgun sales of \$120.7 million was slightly down by 2.8%. However, we continue to see order strength for our popular M&P Shield, SDVE and BODYGUARD 380 pistols, demonstrating the ongoing consumer preference for our concealed carry firearms. Long gun sales of \$34.2 million were up 5%, and was supported by strong sales of our M&P 15 Sport, our opening price point modern sporting rifle, which provides a great value to consumers. Our M&P 15 Sport is the industry-leading rifle in this category.'" [Q4 Smith & Wesson earnings call, 6/18/15]

NRA BOARD MEMBER SCOTT BACH PROMOTED POLICIES MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO RESTRICT GUNS & ENCOURAGING GUN OWNERSHIP IN NEW JERSEY

Bach Was The Executive Director Of The Association Of N.J. Rifle & Pistol Clubs. According to ANJRPC's website, "Thursday May 14, 2015: In a published decision affecting all New Jersey municipalities, the New Jersey Appellate Division today confirmed that New Jersey permitting authorities may NOT require completion of additional forms for firearms permit

applications beyond the forms mandated by state law. ‘This decision represents a major breakthrough that will facilitate the mission of ANJRPC’s Permitting StrikeForce™,’ said ANJRPC Executive Director Scott Bach.” [ANJRPC.org, accessed [10/9/15](#)]

Bach Was Against A Bill That Would Have Limited Gun Buyers “To One Handgun A Month” In New Jersey.

According to The New York Times, “A bill that would limit gun buyers to one handgun a month passed the [New Jersey] State Assembly in June and is now awaiting a hearing in the State Senate. [...] Scott Bach, president of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs, said that if a gun were recovered after a crime, it would be traced back. He said New Jersey already has some of the most stringent gun-licensing and permitting processes in the nation, giving law enforcement ample time and latitude to turn down suspicious buyers.” [New York Times, [10/12/08](#)]

Bach On Bill That Would Have Limited Monthly Gun Purchases: “Can You Imagine A Golfer Having Only One Club?”

According to The New York Times, “A bill that would limit gun buyers to one handgun a month passed the [New Jersey] State Assembly in June and is now awaiting a hearing in the State Senate. [...] Scott Bach, president of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs, said that if a gun were recovered after a crime, it would be traced back. He said New Jersey already has some of the most stringent gun-licensing and permitting processes in the nation, giving law enforcement ample time and latitude to turn down suspicious buyers. He said there are many reasons someone might want more than one gun a month — for protection if a primary gun needs repair, or for variety. ‘Can you imagine a golfer having only one club?’ he said.” [New York Times, [10/12/08](#)]

Bach Opposed A Bill That Would Have Required “Judges To Order Those Convicted Of A Domestic Violence Offense To Sell Their Guns To Dealers Or Turn Them Over To Law Enforcement Within 24 Hours.”

According to NJ Advance Media, “The bill (A4218) — which former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords (D-Arizona) advocated for in a March visit to Trenton — is scheduled for a hearing in the state Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee on Monday. It would require judges to order those convicted of a domestic violence offense to sell their guns to dealers or turn them over to law enforcement within 24 hours, among other things. [...] Gun rights advocates oppose the measure. Scott Bach, president of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs, wrote in an email to members Thursday that while the bill at first glance looks well-intentioned, it ‘seems obsessed with harassing and intimidating anyone who owns firearms and is also accused of domestic violence, even where no actual violence has occurred — which is often the case under existing New Jersey law.’” [NJ Advance Media, [5/29/15](#)]

Bach Opposed A Bill That “Would Raise The Level Of Crime For Unlawful Possession Of A Handgun” In New Jersey.

According to an op-ed by Scott Bach for NJ.com, “On its face, S2431 seems innocent enough: it raises the level of crime for ‘unlawful possession’ of a handgun from third to second degree. Second degree crimes carry a prison term of up to 10 years (7 years minimum is presumptive) and a fine of up to \$150,000. So what’s the problem, you ask? The problem is that the Garden State’s gun laws are a tangled web of hypertechnical, complex, and frequently incomprehensible regulations that often have the effect of ensnaring otherwise law-abiding citizens and turning them into inadvertent criminals.” [Scott Bach – NJ.com, [1/26/08](#)]

NRA BOARD MEMBER TODD RATHNER PROMOTED POLICIES MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO RESTRICT GUNS & ENCOURAGING GUN OWNERSHIP IN ARIZONA

Rathner Opposed Bans On High-Capacity Magazines, Arguing That “The Individual Citizen Needs To Be Able To Own The Tools That The Average Military Person Would Carry In Combat.”

According to The Sun, “The issue of high-capacity magazines jumped into the gun debate again last month with the killings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Adam Lanza had a rifle with a 30-round capacity when he killed 20 children and six adults. Lopez said James Holmes, accused of last year’s killings at an Aurora, Colo., movie theater also had a high-capacity magazine. Closer to home, Jared Loughner outfitted his pistol with a high-capacity clip before killing six in Tucson in 2011 and seriously wounding Gabrielle Giffords. The proposal will run into stiff opposition from the National Rifle Association. Board member Todd Rathner said he does not see how such a ban would save lives, as nothing in the law would preclude someone from carrying multiple clips. ‘If you just practice in your bedroom, you could learn to switch magazines quickly.’ Anyway, he said, there is no reason to limit the ability of people to arm themselves. ‘The individual citizen needs to be able to own the tools that the average military person would carry in combat. That’s what the Second Amendment is all about.’” [The Sun, 1/19/13]

Rathner Helped To Pass A Law Allowing Arizonans To Carry Guns Without A Permit And A Law Barring Local Jurisdictions From Enacting Gun Restrictions. According to Bloomberg News, “Four years later, [Doug] Ritter met [Todd] Rathner at an NRA board meeting. Rathner, a board member for the gun-rights group, had recently pushed Arizona's ‘constitutional carry’ law, which let citizens tote firearms openly without a permit. A decade earlier, he had encouraged the state to enact a so-called pre-emption law that prohibited cities from enacting their own restrictions.” [Bloomberg, 5/8/15]

Rathner On A Bill To Ban Cities From Destroying Guns: “We Believe That This Is A Good First Step Toward Stopping Cities In Arizona From Destroying Perfectly Good Firearms.” According to the Arizona Daily Star, “‘Since we firmly believe that the cities have no business regulating firearms in any way, the NRA and the ASRPA (Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association) both support the bill,’ Todd Rathner, lobbyist for the state organization and a national board member of the National Rifle Association, wrote in an email. ‘And we believe that this is a good first step toward stopping cities in Arizona from destroying perfectly good firearms.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/1/13]

- **Rathner: “Since We Firmly Believe That The Cities Have No Business Regulating Firearms In Any Way, The NRA And The ASRPA (Arizona State Rifle And Pistol Association) Both Support The Bill.”** According to the Arizona Daily Star, “‘Since we firmly believe that the cities have no business regulating firearms in any way, the NRA and the ASRPA (Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association) both support the bill,’ Todd Rathner, lobbyist for the state organization and a national board member of the National Rifle Association, wrote in an email. ‘And we believe that this is a good first step toward stopping cities in Arizona from destroying perfectly good firearms.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/1/13]

Rathner Said He Liked “The Message” Behind A Law Making It Illegal In Arizona To Enforce Federal Gun Laws, But Worried About Its Impact On Dealers. According to The Sun, “PHOENIX — A proposal to make it illegal for some Arizonans to enforce federal gun laws is raising concern by the nation’s largest defender of the Second Amendment. [...] Todd Rathner of the National Rifle Association said he appreciates the sentiment behind the proposal by Rep. Steve Smith, R-Maricopa, to provide some protection for those who believe that new laws and regulations being proposed by the president are illegal. ‘I like the message he’s trying to send,’ said Rathner. But the Tucson resident said Monday he has ‘real concerns’ about how such a state law would affect federally licensed firearms dealers who would be put in a position of whether to obey state or federal laws. ‘I worry about putting federal firearms licensees in the middle of a fight between us and the federal government,’ he said. ‘It puts them between a rock and a hard place because they worry about committing a federal crime or a state crime.’” [The Sun, 1/21/13]

NRA BOARD MEMBER JIM PORTER CLAIMED THE NRA PLAYED A “BIG ROLE” IN LURING GUN MANUFACTURER REMINGTON TO NEVADA

In 2014, Then-NRA President Jim Porter Claimed The NRA Played A “Big Role” In Luring Gun Manufacturer Remington To Alabama. According to the Birmingham Business Journal’s Biztalk Birmingham blog, “Jim Porter, president of the National Rifle Association, said looser gun laws in Alabama will help the state land more gun manufacturers like Remington, which is starting a production facility in Huntsville. And, many people don’t know this, but the NRA played a big role in luring Remington – and its 2,000 jobs – to Alabama, Porter said after the Birmingham Kiwanis Club at the Harbert Center on Tuesday.” [Birmingham Business Journal, [6/10/14](#)]

- **Porter “Said Looser Gun Laws In Alabama Will Help The State Land More Gun Manufacturers Like Remington.”** According to the Birmingham Business Journal’s Biztalk Birmingham blog, “Jim Porter, president of the National Rifle Association, said looser gun laws in Alabama will help the state land more gun manufacturers like Remington, which is starting a production facility in Huntsville.” [Birmingham Business Journal, [6/10/14](#)]
- **Porter: “My Friends Who Are At Remington, The CEO, George Kollitides, I Told George, I Said, ‘George, You Will Not Make A Better Business Decision In Your Lifetime Other Than To Come To The State Of Alabama.’”** According to a Birmingham Business Journal video of then-NRA President Jim Porter, “We’ve been fortunate to have the most pro-gun state and most pro-business state in the country. And my friends who are at Remington, the CEO, George Kollitides, I told George, I said, ‘George, you will not make a better business decision in your lifetime other than to come to the state of Alabama. You will have the support of the administration, you will have the support of the population. Everybody in the state is going to be lining up to work for Remington to put on one of those green t-shirts. Through that,

we were able to get them down to Alabama and found a place they absolutely love.” [Birmingham Business Journal, [6/10/14](#)]

NRA URGED ITS MEMBERS TO TELL THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT GEORGIA’S “GUNS EVERYWHERE” LAW

Georgia’s House Bill 60, Or The “Guns Everywhere Bill” Allowed Residents To Carry Concealed Guns In “Bars, Churches, School Zones, Government Buildings And Certain Parts Of Airports.” According to CNN, “Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed a wide-ranging gun bill into law Wednesday that has critics howling and proponents applauding. House Bill 60, or the Safe Carry Protection Act of 2014 -- which opponents have nicknamed the ‘guns everywhere bill’ -- specifies where Georgia residents can carry weapons. Included are provisions that allow residents who have concealed carry permits to take guns into some bars, churches, school zones, government buildings and certain parts of airports.” [CNN, [4/23/14](#)]

The Bill Was Signed Into Law By Gov. Nathan Deal In April 2014. According to CNN, “Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed a wide-ranging gun bill into law Wednesday that has critics howling and proponents applauding. House Bill 60, or the Safe Carry Protection Act of 2014 -- which opponents have nicknamed the ‘guns everywhere bill’ -- specifies where Georgia residents can carry weapons. Included are provisions that allow residents who have concealed carry permits to take guns into some bars, churches, school zones, government buildings and certain parts of airports.” [CNN, [4/23/14](#)]

The Bill Also Forbids Law Enforcement Who See A Resident Carrying A Gun From Asking For Their Permit “Unless They’re Committing A Crime.” According to CNN, “Other notable provisions of the law allow hunters to use silencers and suppressors when the owner of the property where they’re hunting is aware they’re using such a device; permit gun owners who have had their licenses revoked to apply for a new license after three years; restrict access for anyone whom a court has deemed mentally incompetent or insane, or anyone involuntary committed to a mental institution; and forbid police officers who see a resident carrying a gun to ask for their permit unless they’re committing a crime.” [CNN, [4/23/14](#)]

The NRA Praised HB 60 “The Most Comprehensive Pro-Gun Bill In Georgia State History.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “The Senate amended HB 60 by adding the legalization of hunting with a suppressed firearm, which your NRA supports, but also unfortunately changed legal carry in churches to opt-in with a \$100 fine for infractions. Even with these changes, your NRA fully supports HB 60 as the most comprehensive pro-gun bill in Georgia state history.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [3/19/14](#)]

- **NRA-ILA: “Enactment Of HB 60 This Year Is Absolutely Critical For The Advancement Of Your Second Amendments Rights...Please Contact Your State Representative TODAY To Agree To HB 60.”** According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “Enactment of HB 60 this year is absolutely critical for the advancement of your Second Amendments rights as a law-abiding gun owner in Georgia. Please contact your state Representative TODAY to agree to HB 60, and forward this alert to family, friends and other fellow gun owners in Georgia and urge them to do the same.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [3/19/14](#)]

NRA GENERAL COUNSEL JOHN FRAZER FOUGHT TO “MAKE IT HARDER TO PROSECUTE STRAW PURCHASERS OF TRAFFICKED GUNS”

Frazer Became Director Of The NRA’s Research And Information Division In 2007 And Was Responsible For Fact Sheets And Policy Papers Used By NRA Lobbyists As Well As Legal Briefs. According to the newsletter of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association, which is affiliated with the NRA, “In 2005 he returned to the Research and Information staff as deputy director, and became director in 2007. In that capacity, he was responsible for developing and reviewing materials for the NRA’s work in advocating for the Second Amendment rights of Americans, ranging from magazine and online articles, to fact sheets and policy papers for use by NRA lobbyists, to legal briefs.” [Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association Newsletter, [May 2015](#)]

Frazer Submitted Language To A Bill That Would Have Raised “The Standard Of Proof Under Which Prosecutors Could Bring Gun-Trafficking Charges Against Straw Purchasers”

As NRA Research And Information Director, Frazer Submitted Language To A Bill That Would Have Raised “The Standard Of Proof Under Which Prosecutors Could Bring Gun-Trafficking Charges Against Straw Purchasers.”

According to the Congressional Quarterly News, “The National Rifle Association is quietly working to amend a bipartisan gun trafficking proposal in a way that gun control advocates claim would gut the measure. [...] Under language proposed by John Frazer, the NRA's director of research and information, the standard of proof under which prosecutors could bring gun-trafficking charges against straw purchasers would be raised. The current language of the Leahy-sponsored measure would allow charges to be brought against those who have a ‘reasonable cause to believe’ that a firearm they are purchasing for someone else will be used in a crime. The NRA replacement language would raise that standard so charges can be brought only against those ‘having knowledge of facts from which the only conclusion a reasonable person could reach’ is that a firearm would be used in a crime.” [Congressional Quarterly News, 4/3/13]

- **The Legislation, The Stop Illegal Trafficking In Firearms Act, “Died In The House.”** According to the Huffington Post, “The Hadiya Pendleton and Nyasia Pryear-Yard Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2013, legislation sponsored by Congressman Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) and endorsed by Pendleton's parents that would increase penalties for straw purchases of guns, died in the House.” [Huffington Post, [1/30/15](#)]

THE NRA, “ENLISTED” BY INDUSTRY GROUP THE AMERICAN SILENCER ASSOCIATION TO “CHIP AWAY AT RESTRICTIVE STATE LAWS” AGAINST SILENCERS

The NRA Had Previously Banned Silencers Manufacturers From Its National Convention, Then Reversed After Being “Enlisted” By An Industry Group; Major NRA Donors Were Involved In Manufacturing Silencers

The NRA Banned Silencer Manufacturers From Its National Convention Until It Was “Enlisted” By The American Silencer Association “To Help It Chip Away At Restrictive State Laws.” According to Mother Jones, “At one time, this disturbing history even prompted the NRA to bar silencer manufacturers from the group's national convention out of the fear that including them would make guns look bad. But that's all changed now that the silencer industry has enlisted the nation's biggest gun lobby to help it chip away at restrictive state laws. In 2011, frustrated by the silencer's image problem, Waldron, along with Advanced Armament Corp., Gemtech, and other silencer manufacturers helped founded the American Silencer Association. Their goal, Waldron told me, was ‘to get more people and legislators to understand that silencers are actually safety devices and not what everybody thinks they are because of Hollywood.’” [Mother Jones, [3/19/13](#)]

In 2011 “The NRA Backed A Group Of Gun Manufacturers, Including Gemtech And Silencerco, In Forming The American Suppressor Association.” According to Vice News, “For many years the NRA did not have an explicit stance favoring silencers, in part because of the negative image associated with the devices. This changed in 2011, when the NRA backed a group of gun manufacturers, including Gemtech and SilencerCo, in forming the American Suppressor Association. A primary objective of the ASA, according to the group's website, is to ‘raise public awareness about the benefits and merits of suppressors through a comprehensive public awareness campaign.’ In other words, move the association of silencers away from the gangster-associated past and reframe them as a tool for safety.” [Vice News, [8/8/15](#)]

- **The American Silencer Association Was Renamed The American Suppressor Association In 2014.** The American Silencer Association website started redirecting to the American Suppressor Association in May 2014. [AmericanSilencer Association.com via Archive.org, accessed [10/13/15](#), AmericanSuppressorAssociation.com via Archive.org, accessed [10/13/15](#)]

“The ASA And The NRA...Are Pressuring State Legislatures To Ease Up And Let People Own And Use Silencers For Hunting.” According to Mother Jones, “The ASA and the NRA, which receives financial support from Waldron's Silencerco, are pressuring state legislatures to ease up and let people own and use silencers for hunting. Several states have obliged recently, including Wyoming, and Montana and Georgia are in the pipeline, too. The NRA touts the health benefits of sparing hunters’ hearing. It also plays the Roosevelt ‘varmint hunting’ card, arguing that silencers enable ranchers to kill rodents without scaring the livestock.” [Mother Jones, [3/19/13](#)]

Founder Of Silencer Manufacturer Advanced Armament Corp., Kevin Brittingham: The NRA Banned AAC From Exhibiting At Its 2000 Annual Show, Because It Didn't Want Silencers To "Put Guns In A Bad Light." According to an interview of the founder of Advanced Armament Corp., Kevin Brittingham, by The Truth About Guns, "There's no more reviews to do, and no more videos to post. As a capstone to that trip, I'd like to present an interview with Kevin, the founder of AAC, where he discusses his business, their culture, their goals, and their interactions with Cerberus / Freedom Group. [...] Kevin: [...] 'That's the main thing we're fighting. In 2000 the NRA had their annual show in Charlotte, and we were a pretty young company then and I bought a table and was setting up to go there and about a week before the show they called me, someone from their executive office, and informed us that we could not set up at the NRA show. And the reason they gave was 'we don't want the news media focusing on your table and putting guns in a bad light.' So I was the first person to get my lifetime membership money back from the NRA, and I was really pissed. But to show how things are changing, at our silencer shoot this year the NRA actually set up a table and came to our event. And now at their federal level and their grassroots (the guy that runs that), they're willing to help us to create better awareness about silencers and promote them, and get it to where all states are legal for silencers.'" [TheTruthAboutGuns.com, [8/8/11](#)]

Brittingham: By 2011 The NRA Set Up A Table At The AAC's Silencer Shoot Event And Helped "Create Better Awareness About Silencers." According to an interview of the founder of Advanced Armament Corp., Kevin Brittingham, by The Truth About Guns, "But to show how things are changing, at our silencer shoot this year the NRA actually set up a table and came to our event. And now at their federal level and their grassroots (the guy that runs that), they're willing to help us to create better awareness about silencers and promote them, and get it to where all states are legal for silencers. It seems like a new state opens up every year, we have most of them now. And to get states where we can hunt game animals with silencers. In Europe you can already do it, so we're not as progressive as we'd like to think." [TheTruthAboutGuns.com, [8/8/11](#)]

Brittingham: "The NRA Is Actually Backing Us And Helping Us With These Things Now Which Is Totally Awesome, Because Cerberus Has Committed Lots Of Lobbying Dollars To Us To Try And Get Things Changed." According to an interview of the founder of Advanced Armament Corp., Kevin Brittingham, by The Truth About Guns, "So the NRA is actually backing us and helping us with these things now which is totally awesome, because Cerberus has committed lots of lobbying dollars to us to try and get things changed. Our goals right now are not the deregulation of silencers, which is pretty much what makes sense (however it's probably better for our company actually that they're regulated, it keeps a lot of competition out and keeps the price high). A silencer is classified as a firearm by ATF, and there's a category called "any other weapon [AOW]" and that's where silencers should be." [TheTruthAboutGuns.com, [8/8/11](#)]

- **Silencer Manufacturer Advanced Armament Corp. Was Part Of The Businesses That Make Up Freedom Group.** According to Fox Business, "A dispute involving a gun industry executive who claims he was fired after being falsely accused of bringing his weapons to work offers a peek into Freedom Group, the gun making conglomerate owned by Cerberus Capital Management LP. The battle unfolding in Manhattan federal court concerns Advanced Armament Corp. LLC, a maker of silencers that is one of the smaller businesses within Freedom Group, which also owns iconic brands such as Bushmaster and Remington Arms." [Fox Business, [6/7/13](#)]

The NRA Took Credit For Legalizing Silencers In 39 States, And Backed A 2015 Bill Introduced In Congress To Make It Easier To Own Silencers

The NRA Backed A Bill Introduced By Republican Rep. Matt Salmon That "Aims To Provide Hunters With Easier Access To Gun Silencers." According to The Hill, "Gun rights groups are putting their might behind Republican legislation that would ease restrictions for firearm owners looking to buy silencers. Roundly panned by gun control advocates, the Hearing Protection Act introduced this week by Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.) aims to provide hunters with easier access to gun silencers. 'Suppressors significantly reduce the chance of hearing loss for anyone who enjoys the shooting sports,' Chris Cox, executive director of National Rifle Association's lobbying arm, said in a statement." [The Hill, [10/25/15](#)]

NRA: "It's Time That Policymakers--Legislators, Wildlife Commissioners And Gun Club Board Members--Move To Eliminate The Laws, Regulations And Policies That Discourage Or Prohibit Suppressor Use." According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, "It's time that policymakers--legislators, wildlife commissioners and gun club board members--move to eliminate the laws, regulations and policies that discourage or prohibit suppressor use. In addition to decreasing the incidents of permanent hearing loss, it will help keep the shooting sports alive and well by decreasing the calls

to close shooting areas and hunting lands. Suppressors may not be for everyone, but that's the best aspect of freedom--it is your choice.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [11/17/11](#)]

“With NRA-ILA's Legislative Efforts, Firearm Suppressors Are Legal To Own In 39 States And Legal For Hunting In 34.” According to an article on the NRA Family website, “With NRA-ILA's legislative efforts, firearm suppressors are legal to own in 39 states and legal for hunting in 34. But they remain rather expensive and difficult to purchase due to the BATF's restrictions. Nonetheless, if you can purchase a handgun you can likely own a silencer, and you probably should. Your ears, your neighbors and your shooting will benefit.” [NRAFamily.org, [4/16/15](#)]

Police Have Expressed Concern About Not Being Able To Track Gunshots From Suppressed Firearms

The Gunshot Tracking System ShotSpotter Would Have Difficulty Tracking Shots From A Gun With A Silencer.

According to The New York Times, “The dispatcher had heard and mapped the shots using ShotSpotter, a gunshot tracking system that has been adopted so far by 45 cities, universities and government sites — giving its operators near-bionic listening powers, often in troubled places. [...] Dispatchers listening to audio files also learn to distinguish gunshots by their hollow pops and appearance onscreen. ShotSpotter creates a graphic of the sounds it picks up, called an acoustic fingerprint; a gunshot graphic tends to look like a vertically spliced Christmas tree. Asked what would happen if a gunman used a silencer, Gregg Rowland, ShotSpotter's vice president, wrote in an e-mail message that the system cannot detect what it cannot hear, but that ‘this does not happen very much in the real world.’” [New York Times, [11/20/09](#)]

Illinois Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart: If Neighbors Couldn't Hear Gunshots Because A Silencer Is Used, “It Would Decrease The Ability For Law Enforcement To Get To A Location And Quickly Find Out What Happened.”

According to ABC 7 News, “As shootings in Chicago increase, so does the debate about whether Illinois should legalize silencers. [...] But the safety of the person firing the gun is not what concerns law enforcement. ‘Frequently the telephone calls that come in to law enforcement about problems that occur on streets come from neighbors and the like who have heard gunshots out there; it draws law enforcement to the area where the shots were fired from,’ said Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart. ‘If there was none of that, it would decrease the ability for law enforcement to get to a location and quickly find out what happened and maybe the people who did it are still in the general area? Yeah, it would hurt.’” [ABC 7 News, [4/30/15](#)]

Ex-LAPD Officer Christopher Dorner Used A Silencer “During His Killing Spree.” According to the Dayton Daily News, “Christopher Dorner, an ex-officer with the Los Angeles Police Department, reportedly used a silencer during his killing spree in southern California in early 2013, media reports show. Dorner killed a couple in a parking garage after firing more than a dozen shots, but neighbors did not hear a sound, according to the Los Angeles Times.” [Dayton Daily News, 1/13/14]

- **Police Officers Hunting Dorner Had Trouble Pinpointing Where He Was Shooting From Because He Used A Silencer.** According to the Los Angeles Times, “Before she went to sleep that night, Regina Crain checked her Facebook page. She saw that police were chasing someone named Christopher Dorner, an ex-LAPD officer who had vowed revenge against his former agency and had killed two people in Irvine. [...] Trucks of law officers hurtled past the cabin. Collins and his partner stopped just west of it and climbed out. They were looking for the stolen truck. Where they found it, they knew, they would find Dorner. But there was no sign of it anywhere around the cabin. They did not know that he was now inside the cabin, waiting for a target. Collins was side-stepping along the road, head tilted over his aimed rifle, when he saw a flash. [...] The bullets seemed to be coming from a cabin window, but the muffled pop pop pop from Dorner's silencer made it hard to pinpoint where. Another round struck Collins just below the left kneecap. A round passed through his left forearm. A round struck his chest.” [Los Angeles Times, [12/8/13](#)]

Sales Of Silencers “Soared” After The NRA And American Suppressor Association Started Working Together

“The Civilian Market For Silencers Soared 37% In 2013, When The Total Number Shot Up To Nearly A Half A Million,” Up From 360,000 In 2012 And 285,000 In 2011. According to CNN, “Sales are booming for silencers, the cylindrical devices used to muffle gunfire. The civilian market for silencers soared 37% in 2013, when the total number shot up to nearly a half a million, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives registry. That's compared to 360,000 in 2012 and 285,000 in 2011. Silencers are so popular that there's a nine-month wait to have a registration approved

by the ATF, according to Ben Shim, a certified firearms instructor and gun industry analyst with CRT Capital Group in Stamford, Conn.” [CNN, [4/22/14](#)]

Silencers Were So Popular In 2014 There Was A Nine-Month Wait To Have A Registration Approved By The ATF. According to CNN, “Silencers are so popular that there's a nine-month wait to have a registration approved by the ATF, according to Ben Shim, a certified firearms instructor and gun industry analyst with CRT Capital Group in Stamford, Conn. ‘People have gone crazy buying guns, but they're done buying them for the time being, so they're buying accessories,’ Shim said.” [CNN, [4/22/14](#)]

NRA Gave Cover To The Extreme Right

THE NRA HAD EXTENSIVE FUNDING TIES TO THE FAR-RIGHT KOCH NETWORK

Mother Jones Headline: “Inside The NRA’s Koch-Funded Dark-Money Campaign.” [Mother Jones, [4/2/13](#)]

Mother Jones: The NRA “Has Pushed Hard To Corral Major Donors.” According to Mother Jones, “The NRA likes to note that it has always been heavily dependent on membership dues and small donors. But in recent years it has pushed hard to corral major donors, starting with gun manufacturers. Since 2005, many of its biggest benefactors have come from the gun industry, which has relied on the group to fight some major legal and political battles. By 2011, some 50 gun giants had ponied up between \$14 million and \$38 million for the NRA’s ‘Ring of Freedom’ fundraising drive.” [Mother Jones, [4/2/13](#)]

Mother Jones: In 2012, “An Organization Allied With The Donor Network Of Billionaire Brothers Charles And David Koch Gave Between \$2 Million And \$3 Million To The NRA’s Election Efforts.” According to Mother Jones, “But in the past couple of years, the NRA has also turned to deep-pocketed conservative allies. Last year an organization allied with the donor network of billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch gave between \$2 million and \$3 million to the NRA’s election efforts, according to two Republican fundraisers familiar with the gun group’s campaign work.” [Mother Jones, [4/2/13](#)]

- **Mother Jones: “The Gift... Was Seen As A Smart Investment Beyond What The Koch-Affiliated Americans For Prosperity Was Already Doing To Boost Conservative Turnout.”** According to Mother Jones, “The gift, said one of the fundraisers, was seen as a smart investment beyond what the Koch-affiliated Americans for Prosperity was already doing to boost conservative turnout.” [Mother Jones, [4/2/13](#)]

Politico: “Freedom Partners And Its President, Marc Short, Serve As An Outlet For The Ideas And Funds Of The Mysterious Koch Brothers.” According to Politico, “An Arlington, Va.-based conservative group, whose existence until now was unknown to almost everyone in politics, raised and spent \$250 million in 2012 to shape political and policy debate nationwide. The group, Freedom Partners, and its president, Marc Short, serve as an outlet for the ideas and funds of the mysterious Koch brothers, cutting checks as large as \$63 million to groups promoting conservative causes, according to an IRS document to be filed shortly.” [Politico, [9/11/13](#)]

The Center To Protect Patient Rights Was “One Of The Largest Political Nonprofits In The Country, Serving As A Conduit For Tens Of Millions Of Dollars In Political Spending, Much Of It Raised By The Kochs.” According to the New York Times, “The group, the Arizona-based Center to Protect Patient Rights, is one of the largest political nonprofits in the country, serving as a conduit for tens of millions of dollars in political spending, much of it raised by the Kochs and their political operation and spent by other nonprofits active in the 2010 and 2012 elections.” [New York Times, [10/24/13](#)]

- **The Center To Protect Patient Rights Changed Its Name To American Encore.** According to American Encore tax documents, American Encore was founded in 2009, but at the time the organization was named the Center to Protect Patient Rights.” [American Encore 2009 990 Tax Form via Conservative Transparency, accessed [11/3/15](#)]

Freedom Partners And The Center To Protect Patient Rights Contributed \$6.6 Million To The NRA In 2012

In 2012, Freedom Partners And The Center To Protect Patient Rights Contributed \$6.6 Million To The NRA.

According to the Washington Post, “The network also distributed funds to other independent political players. In the last election, Freedom Partners and CPPR doled out millions of dollars to a wide assortment of groups on the right, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (\$3 million), the NRA (\$6.6 million), the National Federation of Independent Business (\$2.5 million) and Heritage Action for America (\$500,000).” [Washington Post, [1/5/14](#)]

- **American Encore/CPPR Donated \$3,150,000 To “Ntl Rifle Assoc For Leg Action” In 2012.** According to tax documents from American Encore, American Encore contributed \$3,150,000 to “Ntl Rifle Assoc for Leg Action” in 2012. [American Encore Form 990, [2012](#)]
- **Freedom Partners Chamber Of Commerce Donated \$3,465,000 To The National Rifle Association In 2012.** According to tax documents from Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce contributed \$3,465,000 to the National Rifle Association in 2012. [Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce Form 990, [2012](#)]

Freedom Partners Contributed Nearly \$4.9 Million To The NRA In 2014

Freedom Partners Chamber Of Commerce Donated \$4,895,000 to “National Rifle Association Institute For Le” In 2014. According to tax documents from Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce contributed \$4,895,000 to “National Rifle Association Institute For Le” in 2014. [Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce Form 990, [2014](#)]

The Kochs’ Americans For Prosperity Worked Closely With The NRA

Americans For Prosperity “Worked With The NRA To Train And Mobilize Gun Owners.” According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “Americans for Prosperity, which is chaired by David Koch, has also worked with the NRA to train and mobilize gun owners.” [PR Watch, [5/16/12](#)]

AFP President Tim Phillips: “It’s Always Good To Have The NRA Here.” According to an interview of AFP President Tim Phillips by Cameron Gray of NRA News, “GRAY: Tim Phillips, President of Americans for Prosperity, put together this fantastic conference. Thanks for having us here and congratulations on another great event. PHILLIPS: It’s always good to have the NRA here.” [NRA News via YouTube, [9/2/14](#)]

Phillips: “If You Just Wave That Banner, Put It Up, And Let Folks Know We’re In The Fight And Willing To Work, They’ll Join You. I Know It Happens With The NRA, With Protecting The 2nd Amendment.” According to an interview of AFP President Tim Phillips by Cameron Gray of NRA News, “PHILLIPS: Activists, Americans, they want to change our country. They want to make it stronger, more vibrant. They want to get this economy going again and turn around these policies from Washington, D.C. and this President. So if you just wave that banner, put it up, and let folks know we’re in the fight and willing to work, they’ll join you. I know it happens with the NRA, with protecting the second amendment. We see it on the economic freedom front.” [NRA News via YouTube, [9/2/14](#)]

AFP’s Vice President For Government Affairs Brent Gardner Formerly Served As A Grassroots Coordinator And As A State And Local Lobbyist With The NRA & NRA-ILA. According to a bio from Americans for Prosperity, “Growing up in Western New York, Brent Gardner’s interest in politics led him to began [*sic*] working and volunteering on political campaigns at the local, state and federal levels. Upon graduation from College, Brent joined the Leadership Institute’s Conservative Leadership Program (CLP) in their field program. At Leadership Institute Brent specialized in conservative political development on college campuses and helped identify, recruit train and place conservative students in campus organizations and throughout the public policy arena. Following his time at the Leadership Institute Brent accepted a position with the National Rifle Association’s Institute for Legislative Action as a National Grassroots Coordinator and later as an NRA State and Local Lobbyist. During his time at NRA-ILA Brent directed the grassroots, legislative, electoral and PAC efforts for 26 states on behalf of the association, scoring major victories for gun owners and sportsman on a wide range of policy objectives. In 2011 Brent announced his departure from NRA to pursue a new opportunity as the Director of Federal Affairs for Americans for Prosperity. Brent served as director of Federal affairs until January of this year when he accepted the position of Vice President of Government Affairs for AFP.” [AmericansforProsperity.org, accessed [10/21/15](#)]

While Working As A Lobbyist For The NRA, Gardner Promoted A Law Which Disallowed Public Entities From Spending Money On Lobbying For Or Promoting Gun-Safety Measures. According to the Associated Press, “Fresh off a series of legislative victories across the country, the National Rifle Association has launched a new effort starting in gun-friendly Kansas seeking to clamp down on the use of government money to lobby on gun-control issues. [...] ‘People are going to look to Kansas,’ said Brent Gardner, an NRA liaison who lobbies in four states, including Kansas. ‘People are starting to see a number of states becoming leaders in firearms rights.’ Gardner said Kansas is the first state to enact a law restricting the use of state dollars on lobbying or other forms of advocacy specifically on gun-control issues, though legislators in Arizona and Wisconsin also have expressed an interest.” [Associated Press, [6/5/13](#)]

- **NRA-ILA: “Senate Bill 45...Preserves The Rights Of Taxpayers To Ensure That Public Funds Are Not Used To Lobby Or Otherwise Advocate For Gun Control.”** According to an article from the NRA-ILA, “NRA members in Kansas spoke loudly this session, and their state legislators answered the call. However, your action is still needed to advance a critical pro-gun reform, Senate Bill 45. Senate Bill 45 which preserves the rights of taxpayers to ensure that public funds are not used to lobby or otherwise advocate for gun control, has been agreed to be included in a conference committee report to be prepared during the veto session in early May.” [NRA-ILA, [4/8/15](#)]

AFP-Kansas State Director Derrick Sontag Offered Testimony In Support Of Senate Bill 45. According to Testimony by AFP-KS Director Derrick Sontag via kslegislature.org, “AFP Kansas supports SB 45, relating to state appropriated monies being used to lobby at the state and local level.” [AFP-KS Testimony via kslegislature.org, [2/6/13](#)]

Koch Industries Was A Member Of An ALEC Task Force That Was Co-Chaired By The NRA And Served On ALEC’s Corporate Board While The NRA’s Pro-Gun Agenda Advanced Through ALEC

Koch Was First Listed As A Private Sector Member Of American Legislative Exchange Council’s Public Safety And Elections Task Force In 2010, With The NRA As A Co-Chair Of That Task Force. According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “It is not clear when Koch first joined ALEC’s [American Legislative Exchange Council] crime task force because the public record is incomplete. What is known is that the first time a full roster of that task force becomes publicly available, Koch is listed as a private sector member of that task force in 2010 (as noted here). The NRA was the task force’s co-chair.” [PR Watch, [5/16/12](#)]

PR Watch: “Koch Was Also The Chairman Of ALEC’s Corporate Board For A Number Of Years While ALEC’s Gun Agenda Continued To Advance.” According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “Koch was also the chairman of ALEC’s corporate board for a number of years while ALEC’s gun agenda continued to advance. And, an untold sum of Koch Industries and Koch family foundation money has also funded ALEC operations over the past nearly two decades.” [PR Watch, [5/16/12](#)]

ALEC Highlighted Its Model “Consistency In Firearm Regulation” Bill In 1995, Which Banned Cities From Suing Gun Manufacturers. According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “ALEC noted that its crime task force had the most bills echoing the ALEC agenda introduced, 199 bills in all that year. One of the bills highlighted by ALEC in its legislative scorecard for 1995 was the ‘Consistency in Firearms Regulation’ Act. This bill would bar cities from enacting their own gun regulations and would prevent cities from suing the gun industry. This ALEC bill had passed in Georgia and Utah that year, and it had been introduced in eight other states.” [PR Watch, [5/16/12](#)]

- **Koch Was An ALEC Private-Sector Co-Chair For Kansas, Where The Measure Was Introduced And Ultimately Passed Into Law.** According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “Kansas was one of the states where the NRA’s effort to bar cities from suing gun manufacturers was introduced in 1995. Who was one of the private sector co-chairs for ALEC’s agenda in Kansas in 1995? Koch Industries, as represented by [Michael] Morgan. There is no indication Morgan lobbied in the Kansas State House for that ALEC bill and there are no public records indicating that he tried to stop this part of the ALEC agenda spearheaded by the NRA from becoming binding law in Koch Industries’ home state, which it ultimately did.” [PR Watch, [5/16/12](#)]
- **In 1999, ALEC “Reaffirmed Its Commitment” To The “Consistency In Firearms Regulation” Bill; Koch Was The Chairman Of ALEC’s Private Enterprise Governing Board At The Time.** According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “In 1999, ALEC reaffirmed its commitment to the ‘Consistency in Firearms Regulation’ bill that had been part of the ALEC playbook for years and that had been introduced in Koch Industries’ home state of

Kansas, when Koch Industries was state co-chair, and elsewhere. Notably, the preceding year, the City of New Orleans had filed the first municipal lawsuit against gun manufacturers, and other cities soon followed. Who was the chairman of ALEC's governing corporate board? Koch Industries, represented by [Michael] Morgan, was the chairman that year. (The list of corporate leaders from that year, 1999, is shown on the right.)" [PR Watch, [5/16/12](#)]

In 2000, With Koch Still As The Chair Of The Corporate Board, ALEC Pushed Legislation Barring States From Using Contracts To Reward Manufacturers With Voluntary Codes Of Conduct Designed To Increase Safety.

According to the Center for Media and Democracy's PR Watch, "In 2000, ALEC adopted the "Defense of Free Market and Public Safety Resolution," as a national template for states across the country. That resolution was an effort to thwart law enforcement from using contracts to buy firearms for police officers to favor gun manufacturers that adhered to a code of conduct. Smith & Wesson (S&W) had become the first gun manufacturer to settle one of the municipal lawsuits. Part of that settlement included requiring its retailers to sell all of its handguns with mechanical trigger locks to help protect kids from accidentally killing themselves or others. The settlement also penalized S&W retailers whose sold guns tended to end up used in crimes, barred S&W retailers from using the gun show loophole to avoid conducting criminal background checks on prospective buyers, and forbade dealers from releasing more than one handgun to a purchaser per day. ALEC's resolution sought to bar states from rewarding S&W with contracts for police weapons or creating an incentive for other gun manufacturers to adopt similar voluntary codes of conduct. Who was the chairman of ALEC's corporate board in 2000? Koch Industries." [PR Watch, [5/16/12](#)]

NRA LEADERSHIP + BOARD TIES TO EXTREME RIGHT

NRA President Allan Cors Referred To The 1968 Gun Control Act, Which Prohibited Convicted Felons, Drug Users, And The Mentally Ill From Purchasing Guns, As A "Monster"

Cors: "I Got Involved In The 1968 Gun Control Act, Which We Did As Much As We Could To Hold Back Some Of The Really Bad Things, But We Did Get Rolled Finally When Martin Luther King, When Bobby Kennedy Was Assassinated." According to an interview with NRA President Allan D. Cors with the NRA, "Think where we'd be today if we didn't have the NRA. Roll back to the 1960s. The NRA was quite frankly very weak. We didn't have a lobbying arm. I was involved in Capitol Hill at that time, I was a lawyer. And I got involved in the 1968 Gun Control Act, which we did as much as we could to hold back some of the really bad things, but we did get rolled finally when Martin Luther King, when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated.." [Allan D. Cors Interview, [4/16/15](#)]

- **The 1968 Gun Control Act "Prohibits All Convicted Felons, Drug Users And The Mentally Ill From Buying Guns; Raises The Age To Purchase Handguns From A Federally Licensed Dealer To 21; And Expands The Licensing Requirements To More Gun Dealers."** According to The Washington Post, "Spurred by the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., President Lyndon B. Johnson renews the fight for gun control. He wins passage of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Gun Control Act of 1968, which becomes the primary federal law regulating firearms. It prohibits all convicted felons, drug users and the mentally ill from buying guns; raises the age to purchase handguns from a federally licensed dealer to 21; and expands the licensing requirements to more gun dealers and requires more detailed record-keeping." [Washington Post, [12/22/12](#)]

Cors On The Gun Control Act Of 1968: "It Was A Monster—A Regulatory Law With Harsh Criminal Penalties For Any Infraction—The Perfect Vehicle For Civil Liberties Abuses." According to an opinion by Allan D. Cors for the NRA America's 1st Freedom blog, "The minority staffs in both the House and the Senate fought a rear guard action. We did surprisingly well. Registration and licensing were swept off the table. Bans were off the table. But without an NRA to lead the effort, the Gun Control Act of 1968 became law. It was a monster—a regulatory law with harsh criminal penalties for any infraction—the perfect vehicle for civil liberties abuses." [Allan D. Cors – Americas1stFreedom.org, [5/28/15](#)]

NRA Executive VP And CEO Wayne LaPierre Held Extremist Views, Comparing Gun Violence Prevention To Nazi Germany, Made Racist And Sexist Remarks About President Obama And Hillary Clinton, And Actively Fearmongered About Obama

Wayne LaPierre Was Elected As The NRA's Executive Vice President And CEO In 1991. According to Wayne LaPierre's biography on the International Association of Political Consultants' website, "Wayne LaPierre has been Executive

Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Rifle Association, the United States' largest gun rights organization with over 4 million members, since 1991." [IAPC.org, accessed [10/7/15](#)]

LaPierre Wrote In His 2011 Book: "Paving The Way For Genocide Was The Systematic Disarmament Of Jews And All Other Opposition Elements, In Nazi Germany Itself And In Conquered Territories." According to The Star-Ledger, "NRA and gun-rights activists have routinely raised the specter of Nazi Germany as a warning against curbing access to firearms. In his 2011 book, 'America Disarmed,' NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre wrote, 'Paving the way for genocide was the systematic disarmament of Jews and all other opposition elements, in Nazi Germany itself and in conquered territories.'" [Star-Ledger, [12/17/13](#)]

1995: NRA Fundraising Letter: LaPierre Wrote That Some Federal Agents Wear "Nazi Bucket Helmets And Black Storm Trooper Uniforms," And "Harass, Intimidate, Even Murder Law-Abiding Citizens." According to The New York Times, "Former President George Bush has resigned from the National Rifle Association, expressing outrage over a recent fund-raising letter in which a top N.R.A. official described some Federal law-enforcement agents as 'jackbooted Government thugs.' [...] The rifle association defended the descriptions used in the solicitation, which the group said was mailed before the April 19 bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City." [New York Times, [5/11/95](#)]

After The 2011 Arizona Shooting, LaPierre Rejected the Idea Of Meeting With The Obama Administration And Said, "Why Should I Sit Down With A Group Of People Who Have Spent Their Life Fighting The Second Amendment?" According to The Washington Post, "Two months after the shooting rampage in Tucson renewed a debate over gun violence, President Obama is still searching for a way to take on the issue without touching off a battle with the powerful gun-rights lobby. [...] Administration officials said Monday that the Justice Department will ask NRA officials to participate in closed-door meetings in the coming weeks to explore a path forward. It is not clear whether the path will lead anywhere. Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice president, rejected the idea. In an interview, he accused the White House of 'trying to fog the issue until after the 2012 elections.' Pointing to a dissenting vote cast by Obama Supreme Court appointee Sonia Sotomayor, who opposed the high court's 2010 ruling affirming the right to bear arms, LaPierre asked: 'Why should I sit down with a group of people who have spent their life fighting the Second Amendment?'" [Washington Post, [3/14/11](#)]

LaPierre: President Obama's Re-Election Would Result In The "Confiscation Of Our Firearms." According to Bloomberg Business, "The four-page solicitation from NRA executive vice president Wayne LaPierre was sent to drum up funds to underwrite an advertising and grassroots campaign to defeat President Barack Obama and elect gun-rights supporters in Congress. [...] The solicitation letter says that Obama's re-election would result in the 'confiscation of our firearms' and potentially a 'ban on semi-automatic weapons.' The suspect in the Aurora, Colorado killings, 24-year-old James Holmes, had four semi-automatic weapons at the theater, police said." [Bloomberg Business, [8/7/12](#)]

LaPierre: President Barack Obama Was Part Of A "Conspiracy To Ensure Re-Election By Lulling Gun Owners To Sleep." According to Salon.com, "For example, in a speech at the 2012 Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, LaPierre said that President Barack Obama was part of a 'conspiracy to ensure re-election by lulling gun owners to sleep.' Obama's plan, he said, was to 'erase the Second Amendment from the Bill of Rights and excise it from the U.S. Constitution.'" [Salon.com, [10/6/15](#)]

LaPierre On President Obama And Hillary Clinton: "Eight Years Of One Demographically-Symbolic President Is Enough." According to CNN, "National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre this weekend dismissed President Barack Obama as a 'demographically-symbolic president' — and doesn't want Hillary Clinton as another. LaPierre warned a crowd of gun enthusiasts at last Friday's annual NRA meeting that 'there's no telling how far Obama will go to...reshape America' into an unrecognizable country before he leaves office. 'And when he's finished, he intends to go out with the coronation of Hillary Rodham Clinton,' LaPierre continued, to boos. 'Yeah, I have to tell you eight years of one demographically-symbolic president is enough.'" [CNN, [4/15/15](#)]

NRA First Vice President Pete Brownell Claimed That To Be "Anti-Gun" Was To Be "Anti-American"

Brownell: People Who Are "Anti-Gun" Are "Anti-American." According to an interview with Pete Brownell with the NRA, "When I stepped up to be a board member, I knew that would put my face and my name out there in front of those people and those people who are anti-gun—I would say anti-American." [Pete Brownell Interview via YouTube.com, [4/20/11](#)]

NRA Board Member Claimed Making His .50 Caliber Rifle, Which Could Take Out Commercial Aircrafts, Illegal Was “Just Pushing To Take All Guns Away From Civilians”

Barrett: People Who Want To Make His .50 Caliber Rifle Illegal For Civilians Were “Just Pushing To Take All Guns Away From Civilians.” According to the Post-Standard, “A .50-caliber rifle can shoot down an airplane while it's taking off or landing, bust a hole in half-inch steel and set an oil refinery on fire, according to Andy Pelosi, executive director of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence. And an 18-year-old can buy one in New York state. ‘There's no place in civilian society for this gun. This gun is a weapon of war,’ Pelosi said. Pelosi was in Syracuse Thursday as part of a statewide push to ban the .50-caliber rifle, which uses a bullet that's six inches long and can hit a target from more than a mile away, Pelosi said. The Assembly passed legislation Tuesday that would ban the gun. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate, but it is still in committee. California has banned the .50-caliber from civilian use. [...] The National Rifle Association and Ronnie Barrett, the gun's inventor, said those who want the ban are just pushing to take all guns away from civilians. ‘This has nothing to do with terrorists. It has nothing to do with crime,’ he said. ‘It's about disarming the American public.’ Barrett, president of Barrett Firearms, said the .50-caliber rifle is no more dangerous than any other rifle.” [Post-Standard, 5/27/05]

NRA Board Member Jim Porter Called Obama A “Fake President” And Used Military Language To Rally NRA Members

Porter: “One Of Our Greatest Charges That We Can Have Today, Is To Train The Civilian In The Use Of The Standard Military Firearm” So “When They’re Ready To Fight Tyranny, They’re Ready To Do It.” According to The Huffington Post, “[Jim] Porter continued: ‘That was the very reason that they started the National Rifle Association, was to teach and train the civilian in the use of the standard military firearm and I am one who still feels very strongly that that is one of our greatest charges that we can have today, is to train the civilian in the use of the standard military firearm so when they have to fight for their country, they’re ready to do it. Also, when they’re ready to fight tyranny, they’re ready to do it. Also, when they’re ready to fight tyranny, they have the wherewithal and the weapons to do it.’” [Huffington Post, [5/3/13](#)]

Porter Called President Obama A “Fake President” Whose “Entire Administration Is Anti-Gun, Anti-Freedom, Anti-Second Amendment.” According to The Huffington Post, “Porter also launched an aggressive attack on Obama and his administration. ‘I get so sick and tired of all these people with this fake president that we got who wants to say, ‘Well, you know he hadn’t done anything bad for gun owners,’” he said. ‘I say, let me tell you something bad that he’s done. His entire administration is anti-gun, anti-freedom, anti-Second Amendment.’” [Huffington Post, [5/3/13](#)]

Porter Told NRA Members That They Were Not Just Battling About Gun Rights, But Were In “A Culture War.” According to the Associated Press, “Porter’s remarks came in a short speech to about 300 people at a grass-roots organizing meeting and set the tone for a ‘Stand and Fight’-themed convention that is part gun trade show, political rally and strategy meeting. ‘This is not a battle about gun rights,’ Porter said, calling it ‘a culture war.’ ‘(You) here in this room are the fighters for freedom. We are the protectors,’ said Porter, whose father was NRA president from 1959-1960.” [Associated Press, [5/3/13](#)]

NRA Board Member Todd Rathner Argued That “The Individual Citizen Needs To be Able To Own The Tools That The Average Military Person Would Carry In Combat”

Rathner Opposed Bans On High-Capacity Magazines, Arguing That “The Individual Citizen Needs To Be Able To Own The Tools That The Average Military Person Would Carry In Combat.” According to The Sun, “The issue of high-capacity magazines jumped into the gun debate again last month with the killings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Adam Lanza had a rifle with a 30-round capacity when he killed 20 children and six adults. Lopez said James Holmes, accused of last year’s killings at an Aurora, Colo., movie theater also had a high-capacity magazine. Closer to home, Jared Loughner outfitted his pistol with a high-capacity clip before killing six in Tucson in 2011 and seriously wounding Gabrielle Giffords. The proposal will run into stiff opposition from the National Rifle Association. Board member Todd Rathner said he does not see how such a ban would save lives, as nothing in the law would preclude someone from carrying multiple clips. ‘If you just practice in your bedroom, you could learn to switch magazines quickly.’ Anyway, he said, there is no reason to limit the ability of people to arm themselves. ‘The individual citizen needs to be able to own the tools that the average military person would carry in combat. That’s what the Second Amendment is all about.’” [The Sun, 1/19/13]

Rathner: Civilians Have “Got To Be Able To Have The Load Capacity As The Average Military Person. Why? Because The Second Amendment Is About Repelling A Tyrannical Government, Not About Hunting.” According to The Sun, “But he [Todd Rathner] said the civilian version of a semiautomatic firearm ‘is exactly the type of weapon the Second Amendment was meant to protect.’ ‘And they’ve got to be able to have the load capacity as the average military person. Why? Because the Second Amendment is about repelling a tyrannical government, not about hunting.’” [The Sun, 1/19/13]

NRA Board Member Charles Cotton Blamed Pastor Clementa Pinckney For His Own Death And The Deaths Of His Congregants Because They Didn’t Have Guns

Cotton On Charleston Pastor Clementa C. Pinckney: “Eight Of His Church Members Who Might Be Alive If He Had Expressly Allowed Members To Carry Handguns In Church Are Dead.” According to The Washington Post, “Charles L. Cotton is a National Rifle Association board member who also runs TexasCHLForum.com, an online discussion forum about guns and guns rights in Texas and beyond. In a discussion thread yesterday which has since been deleted, a commenter noted that one of the 9 people slain at a Charleston church, Clementa C. Pinckney, was a pastor and a state legislator in South Carolina. Cotton responded: [‘]And he voted against concealed-carry. Eight of his church members who might be alive if he had expressly allowed members to carry handguns in church are dead.[’]” [Washington Post WonkBlog, [6/19/15](#)]

- **Cotton On Pinckney: “Innocent People Died Because Of His Position On A Political Issue.”** According to The Washington Post, “Charles L. Cotton is a National Rifle Association board member who also runs TexasCHLForum.com, an online discussion forum about guns and guns rights in Texas and beyond. In a discussion thread yesterday which has since been deleted, a commenter noted that one of the 9 people slain at a Charleston church, Clementa C. Pinckney, was a pastor and a state legislator in South Carolina. Cotton responded: [‘]And he voted against concealed-carry. Eight of his church members who might be alive if he had expressly allowed members to carry handguns in church are dead. Innocent people died because of his position on a political issue.[’]” [Washington Post Wonkblog, [6/19/15](#)]

Nine People Were Killed During A Bible Study At A Charleston Church In 2015, Including Pinckney Who Was Also A State Senator. According to CNN.com, “Just one week after a gunman killed nine people during Bible study at Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, worshippers gathered once more in the same room where the bullets flew. [...]A week after the killing of the African-American pastor and state senator by a man who had posed in photos with the flag as a symbol of white supremacy, Pinckney's legislative colleagues are still grappling with whether to take it down.” [CNN, [6/24/15](#)]

Cotton On A Bill That Would Eliminate Corporal Punishment In Texas Schools: A “Good Paddling In School May Keep Me From Having To Put A Bullet” In A Kid Later

Cotton On A Bill That Would Eliminate Corporal Punishment In Texas Schools: A “Good Paddling In School May Keep Me From Having To Put A Bullet” In A Kid Later. According to the New York Daily News, “A member of the NRA's board believes a ‘good paddling in school may keep me from having to put a bullet in him later.’ Charles Cotton made the controversial statement in a post Wednesday on a Texas website that tracks gun legislation in response to a bill proposed by Texas Rep. Alma Allen to prohibit corporal punishment in schools.” [New York Daily News, [2/8/15](#)]

NRA Board Member Scott Bach Likened “Gun Control Proponents To Nazi Germany” And Referred To The Families Of The Children Killed In The Newtown Massacre As “A Prop”

Bach Said He Was Confused Why Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop Was Anti-Gun Since His Grandparents Were Holocaust Survivors. According to The Star-Ledger, “Scott Bach, a member of the NRA's board of directors and executive director of the Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs said he was surprised [Jersey City Mayor Steven] Fulop would be anti-gun since his grandparents were Holocaust survivors. ‘His grandparents were Holocaust survivors according to Wikipedia,’ Bach said in an interview on NRA News, calling for gunmakers to boycott Jersey City. ‘So you’ve got to wonder why he is not getting it.’” [Star-Ledger, [12/17/13](#)]

- **National And Local Jewish Groups Criticized Bach And The NRA For “Likening Gun Control Proponents To Nazi Germany.”** According to The Star-Ledger, “This week, national and local Jewish groups also criticized Bach and

the NRA for likening gun control proponents to Nazi Germany. ‘Invoking the Holocaust and bringing Hitler into this argument is historically inaccurate and offensive to Holocaust survivors and the Jewish community,’ the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ said in a statement. ‘Access to guns and the systematic murder of six million Jews have no basis for comparison in the United States or in New Jersey. The Holocaust has no place in this discussion and it is offensive to link this tragedy to such a debate.’” [Star-Ledger, [12/17/13](#)]

Bach Described The Newtown Families Who Were Pushing For Stricter Gun Control Following The Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting As A “Prop”

Bach Described The Newtown Families Who Were Pushing For Stricter Gun Control Following The Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting As A “Prop.” According to the New York Daily News, “To most Americans, they are parents grieving children slain by a gun-toting madman at a Connecticut grade school. To an apparently heartless NRA man in New Jersey, they are a ‘prop.’ That’s how Scott Bach characterized the Newtown families that have been pushing for stricter gun control in the wake of the tragedy that left 20 first graders and six staffers at the Sandy Hook Elementary School dead.” [New York Daily News, [5/2/14](#)]

NRA Board Member Ted Nugent Had Extensive Racist, Sexist, Violent Remarks, One Of Which Prompted A Secret Service Investigation. Nugent Blamed Mass Shootings On Political Correctness, And Said Not Owning A Gun Was A “Suicidal” Decision

Ted Nugent Was A NRA Board Member As Of April 2015. According to an op-ed by Musician Ted Nugent for Newsmax, “Ted Nugent is a musician and award-winning writer and author of The New York Times best-selling ‘Ted White & Blue: The Nugent Manifesto’ and ‘God, Guns and Rock 'n' Roll,’ along with ‘Kill It and Grill It,’ ‘BloodTrails,’ and ‘BloodTrails II.’ He also is a member of the board of directors of the National Rifle Association.” [Ted Nugent – Newsmax, [4/8/15](#)]

Nugent: Not Owning A Gun Is A “Suicidal Choice That Will Get You Killed.” According to an opinion by Ted Nugent for WND, “Disarmed and helpless is an irresponsible, suicidal choice that will get you killed. Defend yourself.” [Ted Nugent – WND.com, [10/7/15](#)]

Nugent: “The Self-Inflicted Scourge Of Political Correctness Has Dumbed Down America Enough To Allow The Conditions” For Mass Shootings To Occur. According to an opinion by Ted Nugent for WND, “The first lesson we should take away from the Sandy Hook massacre is that the self-inflicted scourge of political correctness has dumbed down America enough to allow the conditions to continue to exist that will facilitate another twisted individual capable of doing the same thing to flounder about our society. In fact, it already happened at the Washington Naval Yard. It is going to happen again. And again.” [Ted Nugent – WND.com, [12/11/13](#)]

Prior To 2012 Election, Nugent: “If Barack Obama Becomes The Next President In November, Again, I Will Either Be Dead Or In Jail By This Time Next Year.” According to the Associated Press, “The controversy erupted after the self-styled ‘Motor City Madman’ made an impassioned plea for support for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney during the National Rifle Association meeting in St. Louis last weekend. ‘We need to ride into that battlefield and chop their heads off in November,’ Nugent said of the Obama administration. He also included a cryptic pronouncement: ‘If Barack Obama becomes the next president in November, again, I will either be dead or in jail by this time next year.’” [Associated Press, [4/18/12](#)]

- **Nugent Was Called In By The Secret Service To Explain His Comments about President Obama.** According to The Washington Post, “Ted Nugent has an appointment with the Secret Service on Thursday after he was called in to explain his comments about President Obama at a National Rifle Association Conference in St. Louis last week.” [Washington Post, [4/18/12](#)]

Nugent Called President Obama A “Communist-Raised, Communist-Educated, Communist-Nurtured Subhuman Mongrel.” According to Rolling Stone, “Last month, in an interview with Guns.com, Nugent fielded a question about the 2016 presidential race. As he bloviated about conservative ideas, it led him to this statement: ‘I have obviously failed to galvanize and prod, if not shame, enough Americans to be ever vigilant, but not to let a Chicago communist-raised, communist-educated, communist-nurtured subhuman mongrel like the ACORN community organizer gangster Barack

Hussein Obama to weasel his way into the top office of authority in the United States of America. I am heartbroken but I am not giving up.” [Rolling Stone, [2/21/14](#)]

While Wielding Two Machine Guns, Nugent: “Obama, He's A Piece Of Shit. I Told Him To Suck On My Machine Gun.” According to Rolling Stone, “Renegade right-winger Ted Nugent recently went on a vicious onstage rant in which he threatened the lives of Democratic presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Decked out in full-on camouflage hunting gear, Nugent wielded two machine guns while raging, ‘Obama, he's a piece of shit. I told him to suck on my machine gun.’” [Rolling Stone, [8/24/07](#)]

Las Vegas Sun: “Ted Nugent Said Facetiously That If He Had To Accept Sen. Harry Reid’s Help, He Would Shoot Him Afterward.” According to the Las Vegas Sun, “While speaking at a recent National Rifle Association event, rocker and NRA board member Ted Nugent said facetiously that if he had to accept Sen. Harry Reid’s help, he would shoot him afterward. Nugent made the comment during a question-and-answer session at the pro-gun group’s annual meeting April 12 in Nashville, Tenn. An audience member asked Nugent about the NRA’s relationship with the Nevada Democrat and Senate minority leader.” [Las Vegas Sun, [4/14/15](#)]

While Brandishing Two Machine Guns, Nugent: “Hey Hillary... You Might Want To Ride One Of These Into The Sunset, You Worthless Bitch.” According to Rolling Stone, “Renegade right-winger Ted Nugent recently went on a vicious onstage rant in which he threatened the lives of Democratic presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Decked out in full-on camouflage hunting gear, Nugent wielded two machine guns while raging, ‘Obama, he's a piece of shit. I told him to suck on my machine gun. Hey Hillary,’ he continued. ‘You might want to ride one of these into the sunset, you worthless bitch.’ Nugent summed up his eloquent speech by screaming ‘freedom!’” [Rolling Stone, [8/24/07](#)]

The NRA Opened An Investigation Into Their Own Board Member Grover Norquist Over An Anti-Muslim Conspiracy Spread By Notorious Islamaphobe Frank Gaffney

In March 2015, NRA’s Wayne LaPierre “Initiated An Investigation Into Norquist For Alleged Ties To Islamist Groups, Including The Muslim Brotherhood.” According to Fox News, “Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist is reportedly stepping away from NRA board of directors activities amid allegations of ties to radical Muslims. Breitbart.com and TheBlaze both reported Tuesday that Norquist, a powerful GOP figure, is distancing himself from the 25-member board a month after radio host Glenn Beck told his audience that Wayne LaPierre, the executive vice president of the NRA, had initiated an investigation into Norquist for alleged ties to Islamist groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood.” [Fox News, [4/15/15](#)]

- **Radio Host Glenn Beck And Center For Security Policy President Frank Gaffney Leveled The Allegations Against Norquist That Sparked The NRA’s Investigation.** According to Breitbart News, “Breitbart News spoke with an NRA spokesman who said that Norquist has indeed distanced himself from the board. The spokesman confirmed that ‘Grover Norquist has voluntarily suspended activities with the NRA Board of Directors as he awaits the outcome of an investigation into allegations against him.’ Breitbart News has previously reported that those allegations were leveled by Glenn Beck and Center for Security Policy president Frank Gaffney, both of whom charged Norquist has ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and other dangerous Islamic factions.” [Breitbart News, [4/14/15](#)]
- **“For More Than A Decade, Gaffney... Has Peddled A Host Of Big-If-True Charges” Against Norquist, While “Mainstream News Outlets And Organizations Have Rarely If Ever Given These Theories Any Credence.”** According to Slate, “As reported last week, the Fox News host-turned-media mogul had noted conspiracy theorist Frank Gaffney on his show to talk about the allegedly nefarious ways of Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. For more than a decade, Gaffney—who helms the benignly named Center for Security Policy—has peddled a host of big-if-true charges about the conservative anti-tax activist. Mainstream news outlets and organizations have rarely if ever given these theories any credence. But now, thanks to Beck, he seems to have gotten the powerful gun rights organization to take the charge that Norquist is actually a member of the Muslim Brotherhood seriously.” [Slate, [3/16/15](#)]

NRA Board Member Marion Hammer Distributed A Newsletter Describing Legislation That Would Ban The Ownership Of Revolvers And Semiautomatic Handguns As Creating “A Modern Day Gestapo Movement”

Hammer Distributed A Newsletter To The Unified Sportsmen Of Florida Describing Legislation That Would Ban The Ownership Of Revolvers And Semiautomatic Handguns As Setting Up “A Modern-Day Gestapo Movement.”

According to the Daytona Beach News-Journal, “The controversy started April 29 when Hammer distributed a newsletter to the 6,000 members of the Unified Sportsmen of Florida, describing legislation by Sen. Robert Johnson, R-Sarasota, and several others as setting up ‘a modern-day Gestapo movement’ by banning the ownership of revolvers and semiautomatic handguns.” [Daytona Beach News-Journal, [5/8/88](#)]

- **Sen. Bob Johnson: “This Is The Lowest Standard Of Integrity I Have Ever Seen For A Lobbyist In Tallahassee.”** According to the Lakeland Ledger, “‘Normally, a lobbyist couldn’t survive with the credibility she is going to have after today,’ said Bob Johnson, R-Sarasota, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Criminal Committee, which considered the legislation. ‘This is the lowest standard of integrity I have ever seen for a lobbyist in Tallahassee,’ said Johnson, who has seen plenty of lobbying tricks in his nine years in the Legislature.” [Lakeland Ledger, [5/12/88](#)]

NRA Board Member Sandy Froman Connected The NRA’s Reading Of The Second Amendment With The History Of The Holocaust

Froman “Unflinchingly... Makes A Point Of Connecting The NRA’s Reading Of The Second Amendment’s Guarantee Of The Right To Bear Arms With The History Of The Holocaust.” According to Moment, “Unflinchingly, Froman also makes a point of connecting the NRA’s reading of the Second Amendment’s guarantee of the right to bear arms with the history of the Holocaust. She points out that the Nazi government confiscated guns from private citizens, including Jews (one NRA ‘proof text’ for fighting any registry of guns: to prevent the government from ever indulging in wholesale confiscation), as well as the importance of guns in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and Resistance.” [Moment, [November-December 2006](#)]

THE NRA & GOP PRESUMPTIVE NOMINEE DONALD TRUMP HAVE THOROUGHLY EMBRACED ONE ANOTHER

The NRA Endorsed Donald Trump For President. According to ABC News, “The National Rifle Association endorsed Donald Trump for president at its convention today. Chris Cox, the executive director of the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action, made the endorsement immediately before Trump walked on stage. ‘Now is the time to unite. If your preferred candidate dropped out of the race, it’s time to get over it,’ Cox said earlier in his remarks.” [ABC News, [5/20/16](#)]

The NRA Planned “A Major Voter-Outreach Program For The 2016 Presidential Election.” According to The Washington Times, “The National Rifle Association is planning a major voter-outreach program for the 2016 presidential election, buoyed by its success in targeted elections last year and hoping to capitalize on Americans’ growing belief that gun ownership will make them safer as fear of crime rises, its chief lobbyist says.” [Washington Times, [5/17/15](#)]

Washington Post: The NRA’s Influence Is Partly Due “To The Organization’s Heavy Spending To Elect People Who Support Their Views And Keep Those Who Back Them In Office.” According to The Washington Post’s The Fix blog, “The chances of the assault weapons ban legislation -- as introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) -- making it through a divided Senate and a Republican-controlled House are remote, although things like banning high capacity ammunition magazines and instituting universal background checks still seem politically plausible. The fact that smaller-bore measures seem the most likely to succeed is in part (and, really, more than in part) to the National Rifle Association -- perhaps the most effective single-issue interest group operating in the nation’s capitol these days. That influence is due to the NRA’s four million members -- a built-in grassroots lobbying force -- as well as to the organization’s heavy spending to elect people who support their views and keep those who back them in office.” [Washington Post, [1/30/13](#)]

- **The NRA Spent \$32 Million On Politics During The 2012 Election Cycle.** According to The Washington Post’s The Fix blog, “Below is a chart that breaks down where the NRA’s political spending -- \$32 million worth -- went in 2012. The chart reinforces that direct contributions to candidates are almost never the key to an organization’s influence. Rather, spending heavily (\$18 million) via issue ads and other outside spending tends to be the way in which true power is exerted in Washington.” [Washington Post, [1/30/13](#)]

- **The NRA's Outside Spending During The 2014 Election Cycle Totaled \$28.2 Million.** According to OpenSecrets, the National Rifle Association's outside spending during the 2014 election cycle totaled \$28,212,718. [OpenSecrets.org, accessed [12/10/15](#)]

Trump Accused GOP of Walking "The NRA Line" In 2000 But Now Says He Loves The NRA

Trump In His Book Published In 2000: "The Republicans Walk The NRA Line And Refuse Even Limited Restrictions." According to *The America We Deserve* by Donald Trump, "This is another issue where you see the extremes of the two existing major parties. Democrats want to confiscate all guns, which is a dumb idea because only the law-abiding citizens would turn in their guns and the bad guys would be the only ones left armed. The Republicans walk the NRA line and refuse even limited restrictions. I generally oppose gun control, but I support the ban on assault weapons and I also support a slightly longer waiting period to purchase a gun." [Donald Trump - *The America We Deserve*, [2000](#)]

Donald Trump: "I Love The NRA, I Love The Second Amendment." According to a video of Donald Trump speaking at the 2015 NRA leadership forum, "I love the NRA, I love the Second Amendment. You have to know that, it's really something to have a room like this and having so many great Americans, great taxpayers, wonderful people and hard workers." [YouTube.com, [4/10/15](#)]

Trump: "I Am A Life Member Of The NRA And Am Proud Of Their Service In Protecting Our Right To Keep And Bear Arms." Its "Efforts To Stop Dangerous, Gun-Banning Legislation And Regulation Is Invaluable." According to an interview of Donald Trump in AmmoLand, "Donald Trump: 'I am a Life Member of the NRA and am proud of their service in protecting our right to keep and bear arms. The NRA's efforts to stop dangerous, gun-banning legislation and regulation is invaluable. The media focus on those efforts overshadows the great work the NRA does on behalf of safety and conservation. I have a permit to carry and, living in New York, I know firsthand the challenges law-abiding citizens have in exercising their Second Amendment rights. My most trusted sources are my sons, Don, Jr. and Eric. They are fantastic sportsmen and are deeply involved in hunting, competitive shooting, and habitat conservation.'" [AmmoLand, [7/7/15](#)]

Trump Based His Gun Policy Off Of The NRA's Policy Preferences

Trump Said He Worked With The NRA "To Craft His Would-Be Gun Policy." According Examiner.com, "Mr. [Donald] Trump wasn't done, however. He then went on to state something that most people were not aware of—the fact that he has a license to carry in the state of New York. 'In fact, I have a license to carry in New York — can you believe that? Nobody knows that,' Trump continued. 'Somebody attacks me, they're gonna be shocked.' After the rally event concluded, Trump admitted that he is a member of the National Rifle Association and that he had worked with the Association to craft his would-be gun policy." [Examiner.com, [10/4/15](#)]

In His Speech To The NRA, Trump Pledged To "Get Rid Of Gun-Free Zones." According to ABC News, "He [Trump] also reiterated his policy promise to eliminate gun-free zones, which exist at some schools and at military bases. 'We're getting rid of gun-free zones, I can tell you,' he said today." [ABC News, [5/20/16](#)]

Trump Claimed Mass Shootings Could Be Avoided If More People Were Armed. According to ABC News, "Trump almost immediately pounced on Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, saying 'crooked Hillary' is 'anti-gun' and 'wants to take your guns away' if elected. He also said deadly mass shootings like the recent one in San Bernardino, California, could be avoided if more people were armed." [ABC News, [5/20/16](#)]

THE NRA HAS UNDERMINED PUBLIC SAFETY

SUMMARY:

The NRA has engaged in relentless fearmongering to drive up distrust of government officials and increase gun sales.

- ✓ After mass shootings, the NRA warned that any measures taken to increase gun safety were the beginning of the "wholesale destruction of gun rights."

- ✓ The NRA accused an anti-gun violence group of trying to get “a law-abiding citizen, or even a police officer, killed.”
- ✓ The NRA engaged in repeated hyperbolic attacks against President Barack Obama, claiming that he wanted to confiscate guns before each of his elections in an attempt to drum up the anti-Obama vote. In 2015, NRA released an ad calling him a “flower child.”
- ✓ Prior to the 2016 election, the NRA began to target Hillary Clinton, claiming she’d be even worse for gun rights than President Obama supposedly was.

The NRA targeted the court system in attempts to overturn reasonable gun safety laws and enabled the GOP’s unprecedented obstruction of a Supreme Court nominee.

- ✓ The NRA created the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund to become involved in court cases meant to establish legal precedent in favor of permissive gun laws.
- ✓ The NRA successfully pushed for state laws to “require that that towns and cities pay the legal fees of any plaintiffs who successfully challenge their gun laws.”
- ✓ The NRA endorsed a “self-defense insurance” plan which provided NRA members with coverage for “related legal costs” when using a gun “for acts of self-defense.”
- ✓ The NRA encouraged the Senate GOP’s obstruction of President Obama’s Supreme Court nominee and drummed up fears of the nominee’s record on guns which Second Amendment experts identified as baseless “fairy tales.”

The NRA attacked reasonable gun safety measures at the state and local level.

- ✓ The NRA attacked handgun bans in multiple states. In California, this resulted in a settlement with the city of San Francisco in which the city allowed guns in public housing.
- ✓ In multiple states, the NRA fought legislative and court battles to repeal bans on assault weapons, including attempts to defend gun dealers charged with breaking state and federal law by selling the guns illegally.
- ✓ The NRA encouraged the passage of, then used as judicial cudgels, laws which prevented cities from enacting stricter gun safety measures than their respective state laws.
- ✓ The NRA fought against state and local bans on high-capacity magazines, often used in mass shootings.
- ✓ The NRA was the driving force behind the passage of “Stand Your Ground” laws nationwide, and defended the laws after the death of Trayvon Martin.
- ✓ The NRA pushed to allow guns in schools.
- ✓ The NRA was responsible for legislation banning doctors from discussing gun safety with their patients, despite scientific consensus and First Amendment concerns.
- ✓ The NRA fought against restricting the sale and purchase of “armor-piercing” bullets, and in fact caused sales of the bullets to soar.

The NRA attacked reasonable gun safety measures at the federal level.

- ✓ The NRA successfully defeated every proposed piece of gun safety legislation after the Newtown Elementary School mass shooting.
- ✓ The NRA defeated the renewal of the federal assault weapons ban.

- ✓ The NRA tried to overturn a “federal law barring handgun sales by licensed gun dealers to people under the age of 21” in 2011.
- ✓ The NRA sued the federal government over a requirement that “gun merchants along the border with Mexico to report bulk sales of certain semiautomatic rifles.”
- ✓ The NRA was the leading opponent of smart gun technology, which would prevent anyone but the owner from firing a gun, playing up fears that the government was trying to increase the price of guns or remotely disable them.
- ✓ The NRA fought to weaken the enforcement of existing gun laws.
- ✓ The NRA “choked off money” for “basic” research on gun safety with an amendment to federal law preventing the CDC from conducting research; the original author of the amendment now regrets it.
- ✓ The NRA made it difficult to track guns used in crimes and fought for laws that permitted dealers to not take inventory of their guns.

The NRA attacked proposals meant to keep America safe from terrorists.

- ✓ The NRA fought a law preventing suspected terrorists from purchasing weapons, despite support from a majority of Americans.
- ✓ The NRA opposed the United States signing on to a treaty meant to help prevent suspected human rights violators and terrorists from getting weapons.
- ✓ Al Qaeda urged lone wolf followers to take advantage of lax gun laws in the United States.

The NRA Fearmongered To Incite Their Members To Push For Legislation And Increase Gun Sales

NRA WARNED THAT PROPOSED MEASURES AFTER THE SANDY HOOK SHOOTING WERE THE BEGINNING OF THE “WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF GUN RIGHTS;” GUN SALES SOARED

After Sandy Hook Shooting: NRA-ILA: “If You Think The Latest Gun Control Debate Will Be Limited Solely To Legislation To Ban Semi-Autos And ‘Large Capacity’ Magazines, Think Again... We Knew That This Fight Was Coming.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “NRA initially withheld comment about the horrible crime that took place in Newtown, Connecticut last week, out of respect for the families of the crime's victims and other residents of that community, and while law enforcement officials there conducted their investigation. However, President Obama and a usual cast of characters, in keeping with their longstanding practice of not letting any crisis go to waste, quickly used the tragedy to push their gun ban agenda. [...] And, if you think the latest gun control debate will be limited solely to legislation to ban semi-autos and ‘large capacity’ magazines, think again. Calls have already been renewed to subject all private sales of firearms to background checks, even among family members and friends, and to end mail-order sales of ammunition. We knew that this fight was coming. But it's now crystal clear that this latest round is on an expedited track and the corresponding rhetoric has been amped up exponentially.” [NRAILA.org/article, [12/21/12](http://nra-ila.org/article/12/21/12)]

NRA-ILA: “The Obama Administration Is Seeking To Institute A Far More Sweeping Gun-Control Agenda Than Simply Reinstating The Failed Clinton Bans On ‘Assault Weapons’ And ‘High-Capacity’ Magazines.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “The Obama administration is seeking to institute a far more sweeping gun-control agenda than simply reinstating the failed Clinton bans on ‘assault weapons’ and ‘high-capacity’ magazines. While the administration seeks to ban whole classes of firearms, a working group led by longtime gun control supporter Vice-President

Joe Biden is also seriously considering proposals for a national registration database to track the movement and sale of all firearms, and much more.” [NRAILA.org, [1/11/13](#)]

- **NRA-ILA: “This Is An All-Out Attack On The Constitution And The Rule Of Law. This Is About The Wholesale Destruction Of Gun Rights In This Country.”** According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “When it comes to attacking our Second Amendment rights, this administration will pull out all the stops. These proposed actions are not simply another rehash of old, failed strategies. This is an all-out attack on the Constitution and the rule of law. This is about the wholesale destruction of gun rights in this country. This is about destroying everything the NRA has done over the last 20 years. The gloves are off and we need to face the challenge squarely—RIGHT NOW—EVERY ONE OF US! Every gun owner, every freedom-loving American--whether an NRA member or not--needs to take action. Gun sales have gone through the roof, but buying guns is not a political strategy. If you've just bought guns, magazines and ammo, now you need to invest the time in doing what it takes to keep them.” [NRAILA.org, [1/11/13](#)]

NRA-ILA: “The Criminalization Of Private Firearm Transfers Is The Centerpiece” Of Gun Control Advocates “Anti-Second Amendment Efforts.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “While banning guns and magazines is being actively promoted by the anti-gunners (as evidenced by introduction of Sen. Feinstein's S. 150), the criminalization of private firearm transfers is the centerpiece of their anti-Second Amendment efforts. This is part of a strategy to chip away at our Second Amendment rights under the guise of being ‘reasonable.’” [NRAILA.org/articles, [2/1/13](#)]

- **NRA-ILA: “The Gloves Are Off And We Need To Face The Challenge Squarely—RIGHT NOW—EVERY ONE OF US! If You've Just Bought Guns, Magazines And Ammo, Now You Need To Invest The Time In Doing What It Takes To Keep Them.”** According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “When it comes to attacking our Second Amendment rights, this administration will pull out all the stops. These proposed actions are not simply another rehash of old, failed strategies. This is an all-out attack on the Constitution and the rule of law. This is about the wholesale destruction of gun rights in this country. This is about destroying everything the NRA has done over the last 20 years. The gloves are off and we need to face the challenge squarely—RIGHT NOW—EVERY ONE OF US! Every gun owner, every freedom-loving American--whether an NRA member or not--needs to take action. Gun sales have gone through the roof, but buying guns is not a political strategy. If you've just bought guns, magazines and ammo, now you need to invest the time in doing what it takes to keep them.” [NRAILA.org, [1/11/13](#)]

LaPierre On Virginia Tech, NIU, Fort Hood, And Other Shootings: “Gun Free Zones’ And Anti-Self-Defense Laws... Protected The Safety Of No One Except The Killers And Condemned The Victims To Death Without So Much As A Prayer.” According to Slate, “At the 2011 Conservative Political Action conference, about a month after the Giffords shooting, LaPierre shifted the blame for gun crimes onto liberals who ‘exploited’ them: [?]At Virginia Tech, at Northern Illinois University, at Fort Hood, at a high school, and at a grade school—these were the victims of five deranged killers. And those five mass killers all had the same decisive advantage: “Gun Free Zones” and anti-self-defense laws that protected the safety of no one except the killers and condemned the victims to death without so much as a prayer. Let me say that again. Our own policies gave more protection to the killers than to the innocent.[?]” [Slate, [12/17/12](#)]

LaPierre: “How Much Longer Before The Horrors That We’ve Witnessed In Paris Or In Copenhagen Come To The Supposedly Gun-Free Zone Of The Mall Of America?... It’s Not If. It’s Just When.” According to Wayne LaPierre’s remarks at CPAC, “The Islam State is consolidating power with beheadings, rapes, murders and atrocities. They’re carving a bloody trail that leads to our doorstep. They’re already here. How much longer before the horrors that we’ve witnessed in Paris or Copenhagen come to the supposedly gun-free zone of Mall of America? Think about that. Or for that matter, the mall in your town, wherever you live. It's not if. It's just when.” [C-SPAN.org, [2/27/15](#)]

Gun Sales Were Spurred After Sandy Hook By “Paranoia” That Was “Stoked By The NRA; NRA First VP Pete Brownell’s Gun Supply Store Even Profited Off It

Huffington Post: Gun Sales Were Spurred After Sandy Hook By “Paranoia” That Was “Stoked By The NRA And The Gun Industry.” According to the Huffington Post, “After a year and a half of stockpiling weapons and ammunition, a buying binge that sent gun company stocks soaring, weapons enthusiasts seem to have realized that President Barack Obama and his allies in Congress are not, in fact, going to take away their guns. The push to expand background checks for gun purchases, launched after the massacre of children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012, fell short in the Senate and was never taken up in the House, but it helped fuel the buying binge, which continued with the news that former

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg planned to spend millions to push gun control. The paranoia was stoked by the NRA and the gun industry itself, which benefited from fears that the Second Amendment was in peril.” [Huffington Post, [6/24/14](#)]

The “Gun Rush” After The Sandy Hook Shooting “Caused The Federal System That Processes Background Checks For Firearm Purchases... To Experience Heavy Delays.” According to the Huffington Post, “The Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn. has sparked a surge in gun sales, according to independent arms dealers across the nation. Larry Hyatt, owner of North Carolina-based Hyatt Gun Shop, which claims to be America’s largest independently owned gun store, said he had a line out the door on Saturday, forcing him to call in extra salespeople. [...] Last weekend’s gun rush caused the federal system that processes background checks for firearm purchases, known as the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, to experience heavy delays.” [Huffington Post, [12/17/12](#)]

Brownells, Run By NRA First Vice President Pete Brownell, Sold “As Many Of One Kind Of High-Capacity Magazine In Three Days As It Usually Does In More Than Three Years” Following The Shooting At Sandy Hook. According to the Associated Press, “Brownells' sales have surged after mass shootings. In the days after last year's massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., the company said that it sold as many of one kind of high-capacity magazine in three days as it usually does in more than three years. Pete Brownell apologized for delays and problems in processing customer orders.” [Associated Press, [12/30/13](#)]

NRA WARNED THAT BACKGROUND CHECKS COULD REQUIRE “YOU AND YOUR FRIEND, OR GRANDSON, OR MOTHER” TO “DRIVE TO SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICE AT THE STATE CAPITAL”

NRA Warned That Proposed Gun Purchase Background Checks “Would Require Background Checks For Firearm Transfers Between Lifelong Friends, And Maybe Even Between Family Members.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “But if you understand exactly what the anti-gunners are really talking about, you'll understand that the restrictions they're proposing are anything but reasonable. While we don't know the final form this legislation will take, these checks no doubt would require background checks for firearm transfers between lifelong friends, and maybe even between family members. It would also be a step toward national gun registration. As we mentioned in an article last week, ‘universal background checks are background checks on EVERY transfer, sale, purchase, trade, gift, rental, and loan of a firearm between any and all individuals, minus whatever exceptions our opponents will stand for.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [2/1/13](#)]

NRA-ILA: “And Where And How Would These Personal Checks Be Done? Would You And Your Friend, Or Grandson, Or Mother Have To Drive To Some Government Office At The State Capital?” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “Does anyone really think that these checks will be conducted between drug dealers on a Chicago street corner or gang members in an L.A. alley? Of course not. You know that's ridiculous and so do the anti-gun politicians, but they don't care. And where and how would these personal checks be done? Would you and your friend, or grandson, or mother have to drive to some government office at the state capital? Or travel several hours to the government-approved, federally licensed dealer in another part of your state? What happens when the instant check system isn't functioning? How will the government monitor and enforce these checks? Obviously, this proposal raises more questions than it answers.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [2/1/13](#)]

NRA ACCUSED AN ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE GROUP OF “SWATTING” AND TRYING TO GET “A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN, OR EVEN A POLICE OFFICER, KILLED”

The NRA Accused The Coalition Against Gun Violence Of “SWATing” Gun Owners, “Hoping To Provoke Confrontations” And Maybe Get “A Law-Abiding Citizen, Or Even A Police Officer, Killed.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “The cracks are showing at the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. Granted, it can’t be easy for them these days. Overall rates of violent crime are down. Americans are embracing the right to keep and bear arms and rejecting calls for gun control at historic rates. [...] But to CSGV anti-gunners Josh Horwitz and Ladd Everitt, we ask, has it really come to this? SWATting? Calling the cops on your competition and hoping to provoke confrontations? Maybe getting a law-abiding citizen, or even a police officer, killed? Maybe mistaking a cop for an armed citizen and pitting cop against cop?” [NRAILA.org, [9/4/15](#)]

- **NRA Cited An NRO Article Accusing CSGV Of Marking “12 Million People As Targets,” Because It Recommended People Call 911 If They Saw Someone Walking Around With A Gun And Had “Any Doubts About Their Intent.”** According to the National Review, “Having failed for decades to achieve any of its broader aims, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) has decided to experiment with a new tactic: annoying peaceful gun owners into submission. ‘If you see someone carrying a firearm in public — openly or concealed — and have ANY doubts about their intent,’ a recent missive from the group proposed, ‘call 911 immediately and ask police to come to the scene.’ Thus did one of the nation’s leading ‘anti-violence’ outfits casually mark 12 million people as targets. [...] And that’s rather the point, isn’t it? It is difficult to avoid concluding that, somewhere deep down, CSGV and their ilk are aiming to antagonize both the cops and the citizenry at large.” [National Review, [9/2/15](#)]

NRA CALLED PROPOSED INFORMATION SHARING WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPAND BACKGROUND CHECKS, “THE LARGEST GUN GRAB IN AMERICAN HISTORY”

The NRA Claimed That The Obama Administration Was Trying To Use The Social Security Administration To Perpetrate The “Largest Gun Grab In American History.” According to a NRA-ILA News Minute video, “Your National Rifle Association is backing legislation that would stop the Obama Administration from perpetrating the largest gun grab in American history by denying millions of Social Security recipients their Second Amendment rights without due process.” [NRA video via YouTube, [9/26/15](#)]

PolitiFact: Social Security Administration’s Proposal “Would Not Ban All Social Security Recipients From Owning Guns,” It “Would Only Affect The Small Fraction Who Are Deemed Mentally Incompetent”

PolitiFact: The Social Security Administration Proposal “Would Not Ban All Social Security Recipients From Owning Guns,” It “Would Only Affect The Small Fraction Who Are Deemed Mentally Incompetent.” According to PolitiFact, “The new policy would not ban all Social Security recipients from owning guns. Rather, it would only affect the small fraction who are deemed mentally incompetent, and who are thus are barred from purchasing guns under the law. The policy is not yet in force. When we reached out to the Social Security Administration, a spokesman responded, ‘We are still developing our policy.’ [...] The policy would not take away guns from people who already own them. There is no indication that this policy would take guns away from people who already own guns. Rather, the policy would affect the ability of some mentally incompetent people from buying new guns.” [PolitiFact, [7/30/15](#)]

- **PolitiFact: The Policy Would Have The Agency “Share Information With The National Background Check System That Is Used To Conduct Background Checks Of Gun Purchasers.”** According to PolitiFact, “Though efforts to enact comprehensive gun control legislation through Congress withered amid intense opposition from gun rights supporters, Obama has done what he can to use executive orders to curb access to guns. One potential policy for his administration would have the Social Security Administration share information with the national background check system that is used to conduct background checks of gun purchasers. Adding names from the Social Security list would potentially increase the number of people barred from purchasing a gun.” [PolitiFact, [7/30/15](#)]
- **PolitiFact: “There Is No Indication That This Policy Would Take Guns Away From People Who Already Own Guns.”** According to PolitiFact, “The new policy would not ban all Social Security recipients from owning guns. Rather, it would only affect the small fraction who are deemed mentally incompetent, and who are thus are barred from purchasing guns under the law. The policy is not yet in force. When we reached out to the Social Security Administration, a spokesman responded, ‘We are still developing our policy.’ [...] The policy would not take away guns from people who already own them. There is no indication that this policy would take guns away from people who already own guns. Rather, the policy would affect the ability of some mentally incompetent people from buying new guns.” [PolitiFact, [7/30/15](#)]

THE NRA ENGAGED IN REPEATED FEARMONGERING ABOUT BARACK OBAMA PRIOR TO BOTH OF HIS ELECTIONS, CLAIMING HE WOULD CONFISCATE GUNS, CAUSING PEOPLE TO STOCK UP ON WEAPONS

Prior To The 2008 Election, The NRA's Fearmongering About An Obama Presidency Caused Gun Owners To Stock Up On Guns And Ammo

2008: Some Customers Stocked Up “Specifically On Ammunition” And Pointed To “Concerns Raised By The National Rifle Association,” Claiming “Obama Would Support A ‘Huge New Tax On My Guns And Ammo.’”

According to CNN, “Some customers are stocking up specifically on ammunition and point to concerns raised by the National Rifle Association, which ran anti-Obama ads during the campaign. The NRA said Obama would support a ‘huge new tax on my guns and ammo,’ referencing a 1999 article in a Chicago newspaper saying the then-Illinois state senator promoted a plan to increase federal taxes by 500 percent on the sales of firearms and ammunition.” [CNN, [11/11/08](#)]

Denver Post: “The 4 Million-Member NRA Dedicated \$15 Million Of Its \$40 Million Campaign This Year To Painting Obama As A Threat To The Second Amendment.” According to the Denver Post, “The 4 million-member NRA dedicated \$15 million of its \$40 million campaign this year to painting Obama as a threat to the Second Amendment. In a mass fundraising letter sent to members this summer, NRA president Wayne LaPierre wrote, ‘Never in NRA's history have we faced a presidential candidate — and hundreds of candidates running for other offices — with such a deep-rooted hatred of firearm freedoms.’” [Denver Post, [11/6/08](#)]

A Colorado Gun Shop Displayed A List “Issued By The National Rifle Association” Outlining “The Potential Threats A President Obama Would Have On Second Amendment Gun Rights.” According to the Denver Post, “Gunshop owners and buyers said the urgency was fueled by Barack Obama's presidential win and Democrats' increasing their majority in Congress. [...] Behind the cash register, a list issued by the National Rifle Association outlines the potential threats a President Obama would have on Second Amendment gun rights: prohibitive excise taxes on guns and ammunition, bans on sales and transfers of all semiautomatic weapons, bans on right-to-carry permits and more. One customer left with two new assault rifles and said he had already bought 30 weapons since Obama began his campaign for president. ‘And look at this,’ he said, unwrapping a black rifle from a plastic cover. ‘I'm not talking BB guns.’” [Denver Post, [11/6/08](#)]

NRA Communications Director Andrew Arulanandam: It's Obama's Legislative Record That Encourages People To Buy Guns. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, “As gun sales shoot up around the country, President-elect Barack Obama said Sunday that gun-owning Americans do not need to rush out and stock up before he is sworn in next month. [...] But National Rifle Association spokesman Andrew Arulanandam said it's not Obama's words — but his legislative track record — that has gun-buyers flocking to the stores. ‘Prior to his campaign for president, his record as a state legislator and as a U.S. Senator shows he voted for the most stringent forms of gun control, the most Draconian legislation, gun bans, ammunition bans and even an increase in federal excise taxes up to 500 percent for every gun and firearm sold,’ Arulanandam said.” [Chicago Sun-Times via Web.Archive.org, [12/8/08](#)]

Sturm Ruger President Michael Fifer: “A Lot Of Folks Feel” That The Spike In Gun Sales In 2007 And 2008 Was Driven By The Presidential Campaign. According to the transcript of a 2009 Q2 Sturm Ruger earnings conference call, “Okay, Tom, we'll go to the --. Okay, I showed you this slide on US commercial market -- sort of a historical sales. You can see that in the year ended 2008, we finished about a little bit more than \$2 billion in sales for the industry. And you can see that there's some concerns over the spike that's recently come up in 2007, 2008 which a lot of folks feel was driven somewhat by the two year long presidential campaign and what would happen thereafter.” [Q2 Sturm Ruger earnings conference call, 7/30/09]

2012: NRA Claimed There Was A “Planned Obamageddon Against The Second Amendment” And Claimed The 2012 Election Was An “All-Or-Nothing Election For The Second Amendment”

NRA: There Is A “Planned Obamageddon Against The Second Amendment” And “This Is An All-Or-Nothing Election For The Second Amendment.” According to an NRA Institute for Legislative Action web post, “Obama's plan for a second term is to overwhelmingly alter the 5-4 Second Amendment majority on the court. If he is re-elected, Obama could fill as many as three vacancies, marking the end of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and, with it, virtually all that we have accomplished working together for the past 30 years. For the planned Obamageddon against the Second Amendment, timing is everything. [...] This is an all-or-nothing election for the Second Amendment and its outcome depends on you. As NRA members—as citizens proud to carry the NRA Membership Card proclaiming our singular dedication to securing the Second Amendment for the future—we must muster every ounce of strength and energy to defeat Barack Obama and educate

our gun-owning friends about the terminal dangers that lie ahead if he retains the awesome power of the presidency.”
[NRAILA.org/articles, [2/1/12](#)]

Daily Beast: “Obama Has Been A Lucrative Boogeyman For The NRA,” Whose Claims About Obama “Led To A Run On Guns And Ammunition.” According to the Daily Beast, “Obama has been lucrative boogeyman for the NRA. In 2008, the NRA distributed literature claiming then-senator Obama would ‘close down 90 percent of the gun shops in America’ and ‘increase federal taxes on guns and ammunition by 500 percent.’ These claims helped raise tens of millions in membership dues and led to a run on guns and ammunition that lasted well into 2009.” [Daily Beast, [4/13/12](#)]

US News & World Report: After Obama’s Election, The NRA Was “Tacitly Suggesting That Gun Enthusiasts Ought To Stock Up While They Had The Chance.” According to the US News and World Report, “Gun sales haven't soared because of a burst of interest in hunting and shooting, however. They've gone up mainly because Obama took office in 2008 as a much stronger advocate of gun-control measures than his predecessor, George W. Bush. Lobbying groups such as the National Rifle Association warned Obama might curtail the rights of gun owners, tacitly suggesting that gun enthusiasts ought to stock up while they had the chance. As sales exploded following Obama's inauguration, some industry officials joked that Obama was ‘the best gun salesman of all time.’” [US News & World Report, [12/17/12](#)]

2015: NRA Continued Attacks On Obama And Claimed Obama Was “Willing To Do Anything To Dismantle” Gun Rights

NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox: “We Know” Obama Is “Willing To Do Anything To Dismantle” Gun Rights. According to a speech by Chris W. Cox at April 2015 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, “Hillary’s probably sent Obama emails about it, but I guess we’ll never know. But what we do know is that we’ll get more gun bans, more ammo bans and more anti-gun Supreme Court justices. There’s no limit to the destruction of individual freedom she’d cause with four or eight years in office. Think about it: Hillary Clinton as President of the United States until 2025. Scared yet? But as big a threat as Hillary could be, let’s not forget how dangerous Obama will be over the next 650 days. We know he’s willing to do anything to dismantle this freedom. And at a recent town hall meeting, he took dishonesty to a whole new level.” [Chris W. Cox – Speech via Archive.org, [4/11/15](#)]

Cox: Obama Really “Wanted To Ban Our Guns. But He Couldn’t Get That Done So He Tried To Ban Our Ammo Instead.” According to a speech by Chris W. Cox at April 2015 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, “But apparently President Obama was watching SportsCenter and not the election results because he sure didn’t get the message, did he? He says he’s got a phone and a pen and he’ll just go around Congress and do whatever he damn-well pleases. We saw it just last month when he tried to ban rifle ammunition. We know what he really wanted to do. He wanted to ban our guns. But he couldn’t get that done so he tried to ban our ammo instead.” [Chris W. Cox – Speech via Archive.org, [4/11/15](#)]

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre: “President Barack Obama Is Setting The Table To Ban Your Ammunition.” According to a column by NRA executive vice president Wayne LaPierre in the NRA’s America’s 1st Freedom magazine, “President Barack Obama is setting the table to ban your ammunition – all of it. Don’t be fooled by the administration’s recent decision to back off from its proposed ban on common rifle ammunition. Even their own words – “at this time” – leave no doubt that their scheme to ban even more ammunition will be back. [...] Since the last election, I’ve been warning NRA members and gun owners all over America that the remaining two years of Obama’s term pose the greatest threat ever to the Second Amendment and our freedom. As the president becomes more and more desperate to make his mark on history, he will become more and more aggressive in attacking the rights of lawful gun owners.” [Wayne LaPierre – America’s 1st Freedom, [May 2015](#)]

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre: Obama Is Trying To Take Away “Your Rifle, Shotgun, Handgun.” According to MSNBC, “Wayne LaPierre, CEO of the National Rifle Association, appeared on Fox News Sunday just days after testifying during a congressional hearing on gun violence, to stoke fears that President Obama will disarm ‘law-abiding citizens’ of their most basic weapons. ‘During the campaign, when [Obama] said to people, “I will not take away your rifle, shotgun, handgun.” They leafleted the country with flyers like this, “Obama’s not gonna take your gun,” “Obama will protect gun rights,”’ LaPierre said. ‘And now he’s trying to take away all three.’” [MSNBC, [2/3/13](#)]

2016 NRA Ad: “To The Ayatollahs Of Iran And Every Terrorist You Enable, Listen Up: You Might Have Met Our Fresh-Faced, Flower Child President And His Weak-Kneed Ivy League Friends, But You Haven’t Met America.”
[NRA Ad via Youtube, [3/22/16](#)]

President Obama: “Every Time There's A Mass Shooting, Gun Sales Spike” And “Part Of The Reason Is That The NRA Has Convinced Many Of Its Members That Somebody Is Going To Come Get Your Guns”

President Obama Acknowledged That Even As He Has “Pushed For Gun Control, Firearm Sales Have Increased In The U.S.” According to The Hill, “President Obama acknowledged Thursday night that even he has pushed for gun control, firearm sales have increased in the U.S. ‘I think it's useful to keep in mind I've been now president for over seven years and gun sales don't seem to have suffered during that time,’ Obama said at a CNN town hall on guns. ‘If anything, actually –’ host Anderson Cooper interjected. ‘They've gone up,’” [The Hill, [1/7/16](#)]

- **President Obama: “Every Time There's A Mass Shooting, Gun Sales Spike” And “Part Of The Reason Is That The NRA Has Convinced Many Of Its Members That Somebody Is Going To Come Get Your Guns.”** According to The Hill, “President Obama acknowledged Thursday night that even he has pushed for gun control, firearm sales have increased in the U.S. [...] Obama said Thursday that his remarks were not the only thing that helped spur gun sales, saying that ‘every time there's a mass shooting, gun sales spike.’ ‘Part of the reason is that the NRA has convinced many of its members that somebody is going to come get your guns,’ Obama said.” [The Hill, [1/7/16](#)]

The Hill: “For Gun-Rights Groups, The Numbers Serve To Validate A Long-Running Joke Within The Industry: Obama Is The Gun Salesman Of The Year.” According to The Hill, “For gun-rights groups, the numbers serve to validate a long-running joke within the industry: Obama is the gun salesman of the year. ‘President Obama has single-handedly done more to promote gun ownership than anyone else,’ said Erich Pratt, executive director of the Gun Owners of America. ‘Gun owners are concerned, and they should be,’ Pratt continued. ‘We see people running to gun stores to buy firearms and ammunition. If Obama wants to ban it, they want to buy it,’ he added.” [The Hill, [1/5/16](#)]

Some Experts Believed That Obama’s Executive Action To Tighten Gun Restrictions Following “A String Of High-Profile Shootings And Surging Sales Of Firearms...Will Only Heighten Demand.” According to The Hill, “President Obama’s move to tighten gun restrictions follows a string of high-profile shootings and surging sales of firearms — and some experts believe Tuesday’s executive action will only heighten demand. Gun manufacturers have seen their stocks climb in recent days as sales pick up.” [The Hill, [1/5/16](#)]

- **The Hill: “Smith & Wesson’s Stock Has Soared Nearly 50 Percent Since Obama First Floated The Idea Of Taking Executive Action On Guns Back In October.”** According to The Hill, “Amid reports of the president’s executive action on guns, Smith & Wesson raised its sales forecast by 16 percent on Monday. Smith & Wesson’s stock has soared nearly 50 percent since Obama first floated the idea of taking executive action on guns back in October. Shares of Sturm, Ruger & Co. have risen at a decent pace of about 13 percent since that time.” [The Hill, [1/5/16](#)]

Shares In The Major Gun Companies Smith & Wesson and Sturm Ruger Have Risen Over 320 Percent Since 2010. According to CNN, “For investors, gun companies have been extremely profitable in recent years. Smith & Wesson and Sturm Ruger stocks have given investors over 320% of gains in the past five years. That's more than four times better than the return of the S&P 500. It's even hotter than Apple's 165% return over the same period.” [CNN, [10/5/15](#)]

IN 2015, THE NRA BEGAN TO FOCUS ITS FEARMONGERING AND ATTACKS ON HILLARY CLINTON

NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox Warned That “There’s No Limit To The Destruction Of Individual Freedom” Hillary Clinton Would “Cause With Four Or Eight Years In Office.” According to a speech by Chris W. Cox at April 2015 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, “Hillary Clinton ... she’s back. Hillary Clinton will announce tomorrow that she’s running for president. When it comes to attacking our Second Amendment freedoms, you can bet she’ll make Barack Obama look like an amateur. Obama won’t admit that he wants to register guns, but Hillary’s proud to support it. The only reason to register guns is to tax ‘em or take ‘em — and there’s no doubt ‘Her Royal Highness’ would love to do both! Hillary’s probably sent Obama emails about it, but I guess we’ll never know. But what we do know is that we’ll get more gun bans, more ammo bans and more anti-gun Supreme Court justices. There’s no limit to the destruction of individual freedom she’d cause with four or eight years in office. Think about it: Hillary Clinton as President of the United States until 2025. Scared yet?” [Chris W. Cox – Speech via Archive.org, [4/11/15](#)]

Cox: “The Only Reason To Register Guns Is To Tax ‘Em Or Take ‘Em — And There’s No Doubt ‘Her Royal Highness’ Would Love To Do Both.” According to a speech by Chris W. Cox at April 2015 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, “Hillary Clinton ... she’s back. Hillary Clinton will announce tomorrow that she’s running for president. When it comes to attacking our Second Amendment freedoms, you can bet she’ll make Barack Obama look like an amateur. Obama won’t admit that he wants to register guns, but Hillary’s proud to support it. The only reason to register guns is to tax ‘em or take ‘em — and there’s no doubt ‘Her Royal Highness’ would love to do both! Hillary’s probably sent Obama emails about it, but I guess we’ll never know. But what we do know is that we’ll get more gun bans, more ammo bans and more anti-gun Supreme Court justices. There’s no limit to the destruction of individual freedom she’d cause with four or eight years in office. Think about it: Hillary Clinton as President of the United States until 2025. Scared yet?” [Chris W. Cox – Speech via Archive.org, [4/11/15](https://www.archive.org/details/4/11/15)]

Cox: “Think About It: Hillary Clinton As President Of The United States Until 2025. Scared Yet?” According to a speech by Chris W. Cox at April 2015 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, “Hillary Clinton ... she’s back. Hillary Clinton will announce tomorrow that she’s running for president. When it comes to attacking our Second Amendment freedoms, you can bet she’ll make Barack Obama look like an amateur. Obama won’t admit that he wants to register guns, but Hillary’s proud to support it. The only reason to register guns is to tax ‘em or take ‘em — and there’s no doubt ‘Her Royal Highness’ would love to do both! Hillary’s probably sent Obama emails about it, but I guess we’ll never know. But what we do know is that we’ll get more gun bans, more ammo bans and more anti-gun Supreme Court justices. There’s no limit to the destruction of individual freedom she’d cause with four or eight years in office. Think about it: Hillary Clinton as President of the United States until 2025. Scared yet?” [Chris W. Cox – Speech via Archive.org, [4/11/15](https://www.archive.org/details/4/11/15)]

NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre: If Clinton “Gets Her Hand On The Supreme Court... Every Total Gun Ban She Dreams – Every Confiscation Scheme She Craves – Will Stand Up In Her Court And We’ll Be Kissing Our Second Amendment Freedom Goodbye.” According to a transcript of Wayne LaPierre’s speech to the NRA convention via Daily Caller, “Under Hillary’s watch, the world has become ever more dangerous all while Hillary attacks our fundamental right to survive and protect ourselves by eliminating our Second Amendment right of self-defense. If she could, Hillary would ban every gun, destroy every magazine, run an entire national security industry into the ground and put your name on a government registration list. If she gets her hands on the Supreme Court and stacks it with just one more justice, every total gun ban she dreams — every confiscation scheme she craves — will stand up in her court and we’ll be kissing our Second Amendment freedom goodbye.” [Wayne LaPierre – The Daily Caller, [5/21/16](https://www.dailycaller.com/5/21/16)]

LaPierre: “If She Could, Hillary Would Ban Every Gun, Destroy Every Magazine, Run An Entire National Security Industry Into The Ground And Put Your Name On A Government Registration List.” According to a transcript of Wayne LaPierre’s speech to the NRA convention via Daily Caller, “Under Hillary’s watch, the world has become ever more dangerous all while Hillary attacks our fundamental right to survive and protect ourselves by eliminating our Second Amendment right of self-defense. If she could, Hillary would ban every gun, destroy every magazine, run an entire national security industry into the ground and put your name on a government registration list.” [Wayne LaPierre – The Daily Caller, [5/21/16](https://www.dailycaller.com/5/21/16)]

LaPierre: “If She Gets Even One Supreme Court Nomination... You Can Kiss Your Guns Goodbye... It Will Begin On Her First Night.” According to a transcript of Wayne LaPierre’s speech to the NRA convention via Daily Caller, “Folks, I’m not kidding. If she gets even one Supreme Court nomination, Hillary’s court will hold that the Second Amendment is a government right — not an individual right — and you can kiss your guns goodbye. That’s not the America we inherited and that’s not the America we want for our children. It won’t happen overnight, but it will begin on her first night.” [Wayne LaPierre – The Daily Caller, [5/21/16](https://www.dailycaller.com/5/21/16)]

LaPierre Claimed That Democrats Were Releasing Convicts And Registering Felons To Allow Them To Vote For Clinton, Saying “They Might As Well Just Give Them A Hillary Bumper Sticker At The Prison Door.” According to a transcript of Wayne LaPierre’s speech to the NRA convention via Daily Caller, “There is no limit to how far the elites will go to put Hillary in the White House. They’re even allowing convicted felons the right to vote, including violent rapists and murderers. It sounds outrageous, but it’s true. The Democratic-led Maryland General Assembly did it for 44,000 ex-cons. In Virginia, Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe — Hillary’s longtime bagman — did it for 206,000 convicted felons. Tentacles of the Clinton machine are out registering those felons right now. They’re releasing them and then they’re registering them! Heck, when they sign their release papers, they might as well just give them a Hillary bumper sticker at the prison door.” [Wayne LaPierre – The Daily Caller, [5/21/16](https://www.dailycaller.com/5/21/16)]

NRA Spokeswoman Jennifer Baker: “When It Comes To Motivating Our Members And Turning Them Out And Getting Them To Vote Against Hillary, It Will Be Easy.” According to the Daily Caller, “Regardless of Trump’s past views on guns, the NRA is confident he will be well-received by its membership. ‘We’re looking at what people would do as president, and Donald Trump has laid out positions that show a strong commitment to Second Amendment rights,’ NRA spokeswoman Jennifer Baker told The Wall Street Journal. ‘This should be a very friendly audience for him.’ ‘When it comes to motivating our members and turning them out and getting them to vote against Hillary, it will be easy,’ she said.” [Daily Caller, [5/20/16](#)]

The NRA Targeted The Court System As A Way To Fight Reasonable Gun Safety Measures

THE NRA CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED “TO BECOME INVOLVED IN COURT CASES ESTABLISHING LEGAL PRECEDENTS IN FAVOR OF GUN OWNERS”

The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund Was Established “To Become Involved In Court Cases Establishing Legal Precedents In Favor Of Gun Owners.” According to the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund website, “The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund was established by the NRA Board of Directors in 1978 to become involved in court cases establishing legal precedents in favor of gun owners.” [NRADefenseFund.org, accessed [10/30/15](#)]

NRA-Institute For Legislative Action Provided Attorney Referrals To NRA Members And Assisted Lawyers Representing Gun Owners

NRA-Institute For Legislative Action Advertised That It Could “Provide General Advice Regarding Laws And Regulations Affecting Gun Owners.” According to a web post on the NRA-Institute for Legislative Action’s website, “NRA-ILA can provide general advice regarding laws and regulations affecting gun owners, however; our attorneys are prohibited by the ethical restraints of their bar license(s) from providing specific legal advice. Our attorneys are also prohibited from discussing legal issues with individuals already represented by counsel, but may assist counsel with research and advice. You may contact the Office of Legislative Counsel at (703) 267-1161 or via email at ILAlegal@nrahq.org, however; if you have a question about your case and are represented by counsel, please refrain from contacting us directly and instead refer your counsel to this office.” [Nraila.org/articles, [12/12/11](#)]

NRA-ILA Maintained “A List Of Attorneys Who Have Identified Themselves As Willing To Consider Cases Involving NRA Members.” According to a web post on the NRA-Institute for Legislative Action’s website, “NRA-ILA maintains a list of attorneys who have identified themselves as willing to consider cases involving NRA members. Referrals are available free of charge to NRA members only. If a referral is given, the member must negotiate fees and arrangements with the attorney directly. By providing referrals, we are not endorsing or recommending any attorney on the list for any purpose -- the attorneys on the list have simply asked to be placed on our list but have not been vetted by NRA-ILA. For assistance in obtaining a referral please call (703) 267-1161.” [Nraila.org/articles, [12/12/11](#)]

NRA EFFECTIVELY PUSHED FOR STATE LAWS REQUIRING TOWNS AND CITIES TO PAY LEGAL FEES OF PLAINTIFFS WHO SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED THEIR GUN LAWS

The NRA Got State Laws Passed In Pennsylvania And Florida To “Require That That Towns And Cities Pay The Legal Fees Of Any Plaintiffs Who Successfully Challenge Their Gun Laws.” According to Slate, “The gun lobby got the state legislature to change the rules of the game. Late last year, Pennsylvania lawmakers passed a bill, loosely modeled on a Florida law, to make it possible for any state resident or any gun-rights group to which they belong to challenge local gun laws in court. The law, Act 192, is an explicit carve-out for gun-rights groups from customary legal procedures—challenges of school-prayer restrictions, for instance, are typically brought by actual students who can show that their rights have been infringed by the restrictions. Not only that, but the law requires that towns and cities pay the legal fees of any plaintiffs who

successfully challenge their gun laws in court. In other words, the NRA, with its headquarters in northern Virginia and annual revenues well above \$200 million, can sue towns and cities, and expect them to pay its costs if it wins.” [Slate, [2/4/15](#)]

- **Since The Florida And Pennsylvania Laws Passed, “The NRA Has Sued Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, And Lancaster” And “Many Towns And Cities Across The State...Have Rushed To Repeal Their Gun-Related Ordinances.”** According to Slate, “almost immediately, the lawsuits have arrived. The NRA has sued Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Lancaster, a town with a population of 59,325. (Lancaster probably ranked as a prime target since its mayor has served as the chairman of the state chapter of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the group co-founded by former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg.) A Pennsylvania-based gun-rights group, Firearms Owners Against Crime, has sued Harrisburg, as has a Texas-based pro-gun rights legal outfit called U.S. Law Shield. Meanwhile, many towns and cities across the state—from Norristown and Franconia outside Philadelphia to Munhall and Clairton in the Monongahela Valley to Erie on the shores of the Great Lakes—have rushed to repeal their gun-related ordinances, worried they won’t be able to afford to fend off these legal actions or, worst case, pay the NRA’s legal bills, alongside their school and snow-removal budgets.” [Slate, [2/4/15](#)]

THE NRA ENCOURAGED THE SENATE GOP’S UNPRECEDENTED BLOCKADE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA’S SUPREME COURT NOMINEE, MERRICK GARLAND, DESPITE EXPERTS ASSERTING THE NRA COMPLETELY MISREPRESENTED GARLAND’S STANCE ON GUN RIGHTS

The NRA Quickly Announced Its Opposition To Garland, Strategized With Key GOP Officials On Blocking His Nomination, And Claimed Garland Was Anti-Gun

The Hill: “The National Rifle Association... Quickly Voiced Its Opposition To President Obama’s Nomination Of Merrick Garland... Calling Into Question His Views On The Second Amendment.” According to the Hill, “The National Rifle Association (NRA) quickly voiced its opposition to President Obama’s nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court, calling into question his views on the Second Amendment.” [The Hill, [3/16/16](#)]

- **NRA-ILA’s Chris Cox: “Merrick Garland’s Judicial Record Shows That He Does Not Respect Our Fundamental, Individual Right To Keep And Bear Arms For Self-Defense.”** According to the Hill, “Garland has been referred to as a moderate federal judge. But Senate Republicans have threatened to block Obama from filling Scalia’s spot on the bench to wait out November’s election. ‘Merrick Garland’s judicial record shows that he does not respect our fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense,’ [Chris] Cox said.” [The Hill, [3/16/16](#)]

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell And Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley Met With Conservative Groups Including The NRA To Strategize On Blocking Garland’s Nomination. According to Politico, “Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley met with representatives from dozens of conservative organizations on Wednesday to urge them to be ready for a long battle over an expected Supreme Court nomination by President Barack Obama. The meeting in the Capitol included a wide-range of right-wing organizations, such as the National Rifle Association, Heritage Action, the Judicial Crisis Network, and the National Right to Life, among others. All of the organizations have already jumped into the Supreme Court clash, or plan to do so soon, and all have huge stakes in the balance-of-power on the high court. For instance, the Judicial Crisis Network has begun a TV ad campaign exhorting Republicans to reject whoever Obama selects to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia. [...] And Grassley — who is up for reelection in November — made what an attendee described as a ‘passionate speech’ saying Republicans ‘need to do what is right’ and refuse to let an Obama nominee move forward.” [Politico, [3/3/16](#)]

Chris Cox Cited Garland “Voting For A Do-Over” In A DC Gun Case As Proof That Garland “Does Not Support The Second Amendment.” According to an opinion by Chris Cox for the Washington Post, “Obama has already nominated two Supreme Court justices who oppose our fundamental individual right to own firearms safely and responsibly. The NRA knows better than to expect anything different with his third choice. On Wednesday, he nominated Judge Merrick Garland, a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to replace Scalia on the Supreme Court. From upholding a federal registry of law-abiding gun owners derived from the instant-background-check system created by the Brady Bill to siding with the District government by voting for a do-over in a Second Amendment decision that invalidated

the D.C. handgun ban — exactly what the Supreme Court rightfully struck down in *Heller* — Garland has proved, the NRA believes, he does not support the Second Amendment.” [Chris Cox – Washington Post, [3/18/16](#)]

McConnell: “I Can’t Imagine That A Republican Majority In The United States Senate Would Want To Confirm, In A Lame-Duck Session, A Nominee Opposed By The National Rifle Association.” According to an editorial from the New York Times, “That is what the majority leader, Mitch McConnell, said the other day when asked about the possibility of considering and confirming President Obama’s nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, after the November elections. ‘I can’t imagine that a Republican majority in the United States Senate would want to confirm, in a lame-duck session, a nominee opposed by the National Rifle Association,’ he told ‘Fox News Sunday.’” [Editorial – New York Times, [3/24/16](#)]

However, The NRA’s Case Was Described By Conservatives As “Thin To Nonexistent” And Multiple Sources Claimed The NRA Was Misrepresenting Garland’s Record

Former George W. Bush Nominee To The DC Court Of Appeals Miguel Estrada: “The Evidence Being Cited For The Accusation That Judge Garland Has Some Bias Against Second Amendment Rights Is From Thin To Nonexistent.” According to NPR, “Proving some of these assertions, however, can be difficult. ‘The evidence that is being cited for the accusation that Judge Garland has some bias against Second Amendment rights is from thin to nonexistent,’ says Miguel Estrada, a conservative Republican lawyer whose own nomination to the D.C. Circuit was stalled by Democrats during the George W. Bush administration.” [NPR, [3/27/16](#)]

Estrada Said Garland’s Vote To Re-Hear The DC Gun Case Signaled Only That It Was A Case Of “Exceptional Importance,” Which Was Confirmed By The Supreme Court Agreeing To Hear The Case. According to NPR, “Estrada notes that the charge that Garland is hostile to gun rights stems from a case challenging the District of Columbia’s ban on handguns. In 2007, a three-judge panel — not including Garland — ruled for the first time that there is a constitutional right to own guns for self-defense. Afterward, Garland was one of four judges, including a conservative Reagan appointee, who voted for the full court to rehear the case. Estrada explains that ‘the rules say that the full court may wish to rehear the case itself when the case raises a question, and I quote, ‘of exceptional importance.’” The gun rights case certainly was of exceptional importance, he said, since no court of appeals had ever before ruled that there was an individual right to own a gun. Ultimately, Estrada notes, the Supreme Court, too, thought the case was of exceptional importance, since it agreed to review the lower court decision and, in a landmark opinion, sustained it” [NPR, [3/27/16](#)]

UCLA Law Professor And American Constitution Society Board Member Adam Winkler: “As A Supporter Of The Individual Right To Keep And Bear Arms, I Opposed Some Of Obama’s Gun Proposals... These Days, However, The NRA Seems To Prefer Misrepresentations And Scare Tactics.” According to an opinion by UCLA Law Professor Adam Winkler for USA Today, “As a supporter of the individual right to keep and bear arms, I opposed some of Obama’s gun proposals, especially those on so-called assault weapons. These guns are no different than many other types of guns and are rarely used in crime. I look to the NRA to help me understand the weaknesses of proposed gun laws. These days, however, the NRA seems to prefer misrepresentations and scare tactics.” [Adam Winkler – USA Today, [4/6/16](#)]

- **Winkler: “Garland... Has Never Written Or Spoken Publicly About His Views Of The Second Amendment... His Vote” To Rehear The DC Case “Tells Us He Wanted To Have A Say In The Decision, Not How He’d Rule On The Merits.”** According to an opinion by UCLA Law Professor Adam Winkler for USA Today, “The NRA says Garland is ‘bad on guns’ and ‘would vote to overturn’ the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *D.C. v. Heller*, a 2008 decision that held the Second Amendment guaranteed an individual right to bear arms. Garland, however, has never written or spoken publicly about his views of the Second Amendment or the *Heller* case. [...] After a panel of judges held that Washington’s ban on handguns was unconstitutional, Garland was one of several judges voting to have the whole court weigh in. His vote tells us he wanted to have a say in the decision, not how he’d rule on the merits.” [Adam Winkler – USA Today, [4/6/16](#)]
- **Winkler: “The NRA’s Opposition To Garland Is Based On Fairy Tales And Exaggerations.”** According to an opinion by UCLA Law Professor Adam Winkler for USA Today, “The NRA’s opposition to Garland is based on fairy tales and exaggerations.” [Adam Winkler – USA Today, [4/6/16](#)]

Washington Post Headline: “Garland’s Gun Record Has Been Distorted By NRA, Second Amendment Experts Say.” [Washington Post, [3/31/16](#)]

One Of The NRA's Top Lawyers, Charles Cooper, Highly Praised Merrick Garland Both Before And After His Nomination To The Supreme Court

Charles Cooper, One Of The NRA's Top Lawyers, Said He Had A High Opinion Of Merrick Garland Which Had "Only Strengthened" Over Time. According to The Trace, "One of the gun group's top lawyers, Charles J. Cooper, has a decidedly different point of view. He once said he considers Garland an exceptional judge who 'fairly and honestly assesses the merits of all sides of an issue.' In an interview with The Washington Post over the weekend, Cooper said his high opinion of Garland 'has only strengthened' over time." [The Trace, [3/26/16](#)]

The New York Times Editorial Board Criticized The GOP Senate For "Deferring" To The NRA

New York Times Editorial: "It Turns Out That The Most Important Voice In The Supreme Court Nomination Battle Is Not The American People's, As Senate Republicans Have Insisted... It's The National Rifle Association's." According to an editorial from the New York Times, "It turns out that the most important voice in the Supreme Court nomination battle is not the American people's, as Senate Republicans have insisted from the moment Justice Antonin Scalia died last month. It is not even that of the senators. It's the National Rifle Association's." [Editorial – New York Times, [3/24/16](#)]

New York Times Editorial: "In Other Words, Forget The Voters... The NRA Doesn't Like Him – For No Fact-Based Reason – And That's All That Matters." According to an editorial from the New York Times, "Mr. McConnell says he wants the next president to fill the vacancy. But if a Democrat wins the election, the N.R.A. will surely oppose any person he or she nominates. What will Mr. McConnell and his caucus do then? In other words, forget the voters. Forget that Judge Garland has been supported and praised by top Republicans and Democrats for years. The N.R.A. doesn't like him — for no fact-based reason — and that's all that matters." [Editorial – New York Times, [3/24/16](#)]

New York Times Editorial: The GOP Has Delegated Its Judgment "To The NRA's Paranoid Far-Right Lobbyists, Whom Nobody Elected, And Who Staunchly Oppose Measures, Like Universal Background Checks, Supported By 90 Percent Of Americans – And Three-Quarters Of NRA Members." According to an editorial from the New York Times, "Put aside the absurd rationales Senate Republicans have trotted out for not holding a hearing on the Garland nomination, and consider how extreme this latest position is. As long as Republicans control the Senate, Mr. McConnell says, they will delegate their judgment to the N.R.A.'s paranoid far-right lobbyists, whom nobody elected, and who staunchly oppose measures, like universal background checks, supported by 90 percent of Americans — and three-quarters of N.R.A. members." [Editorial – New York Times, [3/24/16](#)]

The NRA Fought Against Reasonable State And Local Gun Safety Measures

THE NRA FOUGHT TO REPEAL STATE AND LOCAL BANS ON HANDGUNS

In McDonald v. Chicago, The NRA Sued Chicago And Three Suburbs Over Their Handgun Bans

In 2008, The NRA Sued Chicago And Three Suburbs Over Their "Gun Bans." According to the Chicago Tribune, "A day after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision striking down a gun ban in Washington, the National Rifle Association on Friday sued Chicago and three suburbs to have their firearm bans repealed. The separate federal suits by the NRA target gun bans in Evanston, Morton Grove and Oak Park in addition to Chicago. On Thursday, the Second Amendment Foundation and the Illinois State Rifle Association also sued Chicago to overturn its 26-year gun ban. Each of Friday's lawsuits was filed on behalf of three or four NRA members who live in Chicago or the three suburbs and want the court to block the enforcement of the gun bans. They want handguns 'to keep at home for lawful purposes, including self-protection and the protection of their families and loved ones,' the suits stated." [Chicago Tribune, [6/28/08](#)]

- **The NRA Filed Their Lawsuit Against Chicago "A Day After" The Supreme Court Struck Down A Washington, D.C. Gun Ban.** According to the Chicago Tribune, "A day after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision striking down a gun ban in Washington, the National Rifle Association on Friday sued Chicago and three suburbs to have their

firearm bans repealed. The separate federal suits by the NRA target gun bans in Evanston, Morton Grove and Oak Park in addition to Chicago.” [Chicago Tribune, [6/28/08](#)]

The Chicago Handgun Ban Was Upheld By A Federal Judge And The NRA “Immediately Appealed” The Decision; It Was Taken Up By The U.S. Supreme Court

The Chicago Handgun Ban Was Upheld By A Federal Judge And The NRA “Immediately Appealed” The Decision. According to the Chicago Defender, “A federal judge has upheld Chicago’s 26-year-old handgun ban, but a pro-gun group immediately appealed the decision. U.S. District Judge Milton Shadur on Thursday rejected a lawsuit from the National Rifle Association that sought to end the Chicago ban. It was filed in June, hours after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a handgun ban in Washington, D.C. City Law Department spokeswoman Jennifer Hoyle says Mayor Richard Daley’s administration is pleased by the decision. But she says officials believe the case will be a “long battle” that’ll ultimately end up in the U.S. Supreme Court. The NRA immediately appealed Shadur’s decision and attorney Stephen Halbrook says the group is confident it’ll win in a higher court.” [Chicago Defender, [12/18/08](#)]

Associated Press: The U.S. Supreme Court Agreed To Hear The Challenge To Chicago’s Handgun Ban In 2009, An “Indication Of The Enduring Strength Of The National Rifle Association.” According to the Associated Press, “The Supreme Court could ignite a vigorous new fight over state and local gun controls across the nation when it rules on a challenge to Chicago’s handgun ban. The court said Wednesday it will consider a challenge to Chicago’s ban, and even gun control supporters believe a victory is likely for gun-rights proponents. [...] Though faced with potential limits from the high court on their ability to enact laws and regulations in this area, 34 states weighed in on the gun-rights side before the justices agreed to take the case Wednesday, an indication of the enduring strength of the National Rifle Association and its allies.” [Associated Press, 10/1/09]

The Supreme Court Overturned The Chicago Handgun Ban, Which NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre Called “A Great Moment In American History”

The Supreme Court Overturned The Chicago Handgun Ban, Which NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre Called “A Great Moment In American History.” According to The Guardian, “Supporters of gun rights in the US won a major legal victory yesterday, when the highest court in the country ruled that an individual’s constitutional right to bear arms applied to every corner of the country and throughout its 50 states. The US Supreme Court delivered a split judgment along the familiar 5-4 conservative-liberal divide. The ruling specifically overturned a ban on handguns in Chicago that has stood for 28 years. Its general finding - that all states must comply with the second amendment to the constitution - is likely to have a sweeping impact on local gun laws, particularly in inner-city areas. The judgment was greeted with joy by the National Rifle Association, the leading proponent of gun rights in a country that has the highest prevalence of civilian gun ownership in the world. The NRA’s Wayne LaPierre called it ‘a great moment in American history’.” [The Guardian, 6/29/10]

Gun Retailers Expected To Receive A Boost In Gun Sales After The Supreme Court Struck Down Chicago’s Handgun Ban

Gun Retailers Expected To Receive A Boost In Gun Sales After The Supreme Court Struck Down Chicago’s Handgun Ban. According to Crain’s Chicago Business, “Gun retailers, who got a boost when President Barack Obama took office, are hoping to get another one from the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court is widely expected to strike down Chicago’s 28-year-old handgun ban this summer, following the court’s 2008 decision to overturn a similar ordinance in Washington, D.C. Suburban gun store owners anticipate the court’s next move will uncork pent-up demand for firearms within Chicago city limits. Nixing the city’s ban ‘is going to open up business to thousands and thousands of households, and that could mean thousands and thousands in sales,’ says Fred Lutger, owner of Freddie Bear Sports, the outdoor-sports store he’s operated in south suburban Tinley Park for 30 years.” [Crain’s Chicago Business, [3/13/10](#)]

- **Gun Industry Thought That The Sales Of Pistols And Revolvers, In Particular, “Could Explode.”** According to ABC News, “After a Supreme Court decision affirming the right to bear arms was handed down in June, the owners of Midwest Sporting Goods, just outside of Chicago, started noticing something any retailer would find encouraging – an increasing number of customers.. [...] Others in the industry agree that sales of firearms, particularly pistols and revolvers, could explode. ‘Over the long term, as restrictions fall by the wayside, you will see gun sales increase,’ said

Lawrence Keane, general counsel for the Newton, Connecticut-based National Shooting Sports Foundation, a lobbying group representing the nation's 55,000 licensed firearms dealers. ” [ABC News, [7/16/10](#)]

Suburban Chicago Gun Store Owner Fred Lutger: Eliminating The City's Ban “Is Going To Open Up Business To Thousands And Thousands Of Households, And That Could Mean Thousands And Thousands In Sales.” According to Crain’s Chicago Business, “Suburban gun store owners anticipate the court's next move will uncork pent-up demand for firearms within Chicago city limits. Nixing the city's ban ‘is going to open up business to thousands and thousands of households, and that could mean thousands and thousands in sales,’ says Fred Lutger, owner of Freddie Bear Sports, the outdoor-sports store he's operated in south suburban Tinley Park for 30 years.” [Crain’s Chicago Business, [3/13/10](#)]

- **Lutger Said He Stocked Up On “Revolvers, Small Automatic Pistols And Safety-Lock Boxes In Anticipation Of The Supreme Court Decision.”** According to Crain’s Chicago Business, “Suburban gun store owners anticipate the court's next move will uncork pent-up demand for firearms within Chicago city limits. Nixing the city's ban ‘is going to open up business to thousands and thousands of households, and that could mean thousands and thousands in sales,’ says Fred Lutger, owner of Freddie Bear Sports, the outdoor-sports store he's operated in south suburban Tinley Park for 30 years. [...] Mr. Lutger says the recent sales surge has depleted his firearms inventory, and he's now restocking revolvers, small automatic pistols and safety-lock boxes in anticipation of the Supreme Court decision.” [Crain’s Chicago Business, [3/13/10](#)]

Illinois Gun Store General Manager On Supreme Court’s Chicago Handgun Ban Ruling: “We Will See Residual Sales... Hopefully, It Will Be Positive For The Entire Industry.” According to Crain’s Chicago Business, “Mark Diaz, general manager of Mike Schrank's Smoke 'N Gun, says his store will stay put in Waukegan. But he's still planning to stock up on revolvers such as .38 Smith & Wesson Specials and ammunition in hopes that Chicagoans head that far north to buy. ‘We will see residual sales,’ Mr. Diaz says. ‘Hopefully, it will be positive for the entire industry.’” [Crain’s Chicago Business, [3/13/10](#)]

Legal Experts Predicted the Ruling Would “Trigger More Lawsuits,” And The NRA Said It Planned To “Focus On How Some Laws Are Enforced”

Legal Experts Predicted the Ruling Would “Trigger More Lawsuits,” And The NRA Said It Planned To “Focus On How Some Laws Are Enforced.” According to the Chicago Tribune, “By extending the reach of the 2nd Amendment, Monday's ruling opens the courthouse doors nationwide for gun-rights advocates to argue that that restrictions on firearms are unconstitutional. Legal experts on both sides of the gun-control debate predicted the ruling will trigger more lawsuits. They disagreed, however, whether it will lead to gun laws being struck down, beyond a city's total ban on handguns. ‘This case is only the beginning of the debate. Gun-ownership rights—like free-speech rights--are not absolute, and state and local governments retain the authority to enact reasonable gun-control laws,’ said Rick Garnett, a law professor at Notre Dame University. [...] Seven states, including California, forbid assault weapons or semi-automatic weapons, the court noted. Those restrictions will face a legal challenge, gun rights advocates said. The National Rifle Association also said it plans to focus on how some laws are enforced. For example, California authorizes residents to carry a concealed weapon in public with a permit. But NRA lawyers say that sheriff's offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco rarely issue a permit, and they want to sue to challenge that practice.” [Chicago Tribune, [6/29/10](#)]

The NRA Successfully Contested A San Francisco Handgun Ban That Was Supported By A Majority Of San Francisco Voters

2006: The NRA Successfully Sued To Overturn A San Francisco Handgun Ban Proposition That Was Supported By A Majority Of San Francisco Voters. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, “A judge struck down San Francisco's voter-approved ban on handgun possession Monday, saying local governments have no such authority under California law. Proposition H, which passed with a 58 percent majority in November, would have outlawed possession of handguns by all city residents except law enforcement officers and others who need guns for professional purposes. It also would have forbidden the manufacture, sale and distribution of guns and ammunition in San Francisco. San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren agreed with the National Rifle Association, which argued that Prop. H exceeded the powers of local government and intruded into an area regulated entirely by the state. The NRA sued on behalf of gun owners, advocates and dealers the day after the measure passed.” [San Francisco Chronicle via Web.Archive.org, [6/13/06](#)]

- **The Lawsuit Against San Francisco Resulted In The NRA Receiving A \$380,000 Settlement From The City.** According to the San Francisco Chronicle, “Three years ago, when Supervisor Chris Daly sponsored a ballot measure to ban handguns in San Francisco, Mayor Gavin Newsom grudgingly said he would vote for it - then just as quickly predicted it would be thrown out by the courts. Newsom was right - no sooner did it pass than it was thrown out on the grounds that only the state can regulate guns. And now the bill has come due: a \$380,000 settlement with the National Rifle Association and other plaintiffs to cover the legal costs of fighting the measure.” [San Francisco Chronicle, [10/27/08](#)]

The NRA Got San Francisco To Allow Handguns In Public Housing As A Result Of A Lawsuit Settlement

The NRA Sued San Francisco To Overturn A Ban On Handguns In Public Housing. According to USA Today, “The National Rifle Association sued the city of San Francisco on Friday to overturn its ban on handguns in public housing, a day after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a handgun ban in the nation's capital. The legal action follows a similar lawsuit against the city of Chicago over its handgun ban, filed within hours of Thursday's high court ruling. [...] A state appeals court has overturned a broader citywide gun ban that voters approved in 2005.” [USAToday.com, [6/27/08](#)]

- **The San Francisco Housing Authority “Agreed To Allow Its Residents To Own Guns In A Settlement Of A National Rifle Association Lawsuit.”** According to SFGate, “The San Francisco Housing Authority has agreed to allow its residents to own guns in a settlement of a National Rifle Association lawsuit that followed last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the right to bear arms. In papers filed Monday with a federal judge, the Housing Authority agreed not to enforce a provision it added to tenant leases in 2005 prohibiting the possession of guns and ammunition. The ban will now apply only to illegal gun ownership, like possession of a machine gun or possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.” [SFGate.com, [1/14/09](#)]

THE NRA FOUGHT STATE AND LOCAL ASSAULT WEAPON BANS

In 2015, The NRA Joined The Illinois State Rifle Association In Pushing For The Supreme Court To Hear An Appeal Of A Chicago-Area Assault Weapons Ban. According to the Chicago Tribune, “Gun rights advocates are urging the Supreme Court to strike down a local Chicago-area ordinance prohibiting semi-automatic ‘assault weapons’ that can carry more than 10 rounds. The justices on Friday were to consider the appeal in *Friedman v. City of Highland Park*. If they refuse to hear the appeal, the announcement could come as early as Tuesday. Such a decision would signal that cities have the authority to restrict high-powered weapons. But if the justices vote to take up the case, it would put in doubt the constitutionality of laws in other places that prohibit semi-automatic weapons. [...] The National Rifle Association and the chief attorneys for 24 states joined Dr. Arie Friedman of Highland Park and the Illinois State Rifle Association in urging the justices to hear the case and to toss the bans on semi-automatic weapons. They say these weapons are hardly unusual. They include ‘some of the most commonplace firearms in the nation, including the immensely popular AR-15, which is the best-selling rifle type’ in the U.S.” [Chicago Tribune, 10/11/15]

- **The Illinois State Rifle Association Was Listed As The Illinois State Affiliate Of The National Rifle Association.** According to the NRA website, the Illinois Rifle Association was listed as the Illinois state affiliate of the NRA. [Clubs.NRA.org, accessed [10/26/15](#)]
- **After The Ban Was Initially Upheld By A Federal Appellate Court, The Illinois State Rifle Association Said The NRA “Would Have To Decide Whether To Make A Costly Appeal.”** According to the Chicago Tribune, “a federal court Monday upheld Highland Park’s ban on assault weapons — possibly setting the stage for a showdown over the issue before the U.S. Supreme Court. In a 2-1 decision, the federal appellate court in Chicago upheld the city’s ban on assault weapons, including AK-47s and AR-15s and magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. [...] Illinois State Rifle Association Executive Director Richard Pearson said he was confident the law could be overturned on appeal to the Supreme Court, but the National Rifle Association would have to decide whether to make a costly appeal. ‘The Second Amendment is about the right to keep and bear arms,’ Pearson said. ‘The government doesn’t get to pick the list.’” [Chicago Tribune via Web.Archive.org, [4/28/15](#)]

The NRA Filed An Amicus Brief With The Supreme Court In The Friedman Case That “Illustrates How The Bill Of Rights Will Effectively Be Destroyed” If A Local Assault Weapon Ban Was Upheld. According to an NRA Institute for Legislative Action web post, “On Friday, August 28, 2015, the National Rifle Association filed an important amicus brief

with the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Friedman v. City of Highland Park* (No. 15-133). The case challenges the City's archaic ban on common semi-automatic rifles that it pejoratively labels 'assault weapons,' as well as standard-capacity magazines with capacities over ten rounds. [...] The NRA's amicus or 'friend of the court' brief urges the Supreme Court to accept the case to correct the majority decision's blatant defiance of Supreme Court precedent. Specifically, the brief explains that firearms and magazines that are commonly possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes are protected under the Second Amendment and simply cannot be banned. The brief also illustrates how the Bill of Rights will effectively be destroyed if the government is permitted to trample constitutional rights according to perceived public feelings and fears. Finally, the brief provides the Court with practical insights regarding the many reasons that the prohibited rifles and magazines are so popular among the American people." [NRILA.org/articles, [8/31/15](#)]

In December 2015, The Supreme Court “Declined To Review The Ability Of Cities And States To Prohibit Semiautomatic High-Capacity Assault Weapons.” According to The Washington Post, “The Supreme Court on Monday declined to review the ability of cities and states to prohibit semiautomatic high-capacity assault weapons that have been used in some of the nation’s most deadly recent mass shootings. The justices decided not to reconsider a lower court’s decision in a case from the city of Highland Park, Ill., near Chicago. But seven states — Maryland, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York — have similar bans, and all of the prohibitions remain in place. [...]The court has privately debated whether to take the Highland Park case for months. Today’s announcement that the challengers’ petition would not be granted reflects that Thomas and Scalia could not persuade fellow conservatives who made up the majority in *Heller* to take the case. It is *Friedman v. Highland Park*.” [Washington Post, [12/7/15](#)]

In 2007, The NRA “Vigorously Defended” A Former Board Member And Gun Dealer In Maryland Who Was Charged With “Illegally Selling Assault Weapons And They “Sued To Prevent The Government From Revoking His License”

In 2007, The NRA “Vigorously Defended” A Former Board Member And Gun Dealer In Maryland Who Was Charged With “Illegally Selling Assault Weapons,” And They “Sued To Prevent The Government From Revoking His License.” According to a press release from the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, “Sandy Abrams, who for years was the go-to guy in Maryland for journalists who wanted to interview an opponent of gun control laws, is set to go on trial Wednesday, charged with illegally selling assault weapons to a criminal who used one of the guns to shoot at Baltimore County police, and for illegal possession of a fully automatic machine gun with a silencer. Abrams faces Maryland state charges for illegal gun sales after Federal authorities revoked his Federal firearms license last year. National Rifle Association attorneys had vigorously defended Abrams and sued to prevent the government from revoking his license. [...] The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) cited over 900 violations of federal law at Valley Gun, including illegal gun sales and the disappearance of more than 1/4 of the shop's entire inventory - at least 422 firearms 'missing' from the store with no record of sale. The U.S. Department of Justice called Abrams' shop a 'serial violator' who has 'endangered the public by failing to account for hundreds of weapons.' Abrams resigned from the National Rifle Association's Board of Directors last year.” [Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence Press Release, [10/16/07](#)]

- **Former NRA Board Member Sandy Abrams “Eventually” Had His License Revoked For “Massive Violations Of Federal Gun Laws.”** According to a press release from the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, “While the National Rifle Association and other gun lobby groups have already expressed strong opposition to this attempt to stop illegal gun trafficking and curb gun violence in Mexico, the Brady Campaign noted that the Obama Administration has clear legal authority to require the bulk sales reports. Demand letters were used during the Clinton administration to force dealers with high crime gun traces to submit additional information to the ATF and the courts have upheld their use. For example, in 2001, the 4th Federal Circuit Court of Appeals rejected a challenge to this authority by former NRA Board member and gun shop owner Sandy Abrams, whose license was eventually revoked for massive violations of federal gun laws.” [Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence Press Release, 12/17/10]

The NRA Supported A Lawsuit Against A Maryland Law Requiring People “To Submit Fingerprints To The State Police To Get A License To Buy A Handgun” And Banning “45 Types Of Assault Weapons”

The NRA Threatened A Lawsuit Against A Maryland Law That Would Require People “To Submit Fingerprints To The State Police To Get A License To Buy A Handgun” And “Bans 45 Types Of Assault Weapons.” According to the Huffington Post, “Gov. Martin O'Malley has signed a gun-control measure to give Maryland some of the nation's tightest gun laws and the National Rifle Association says it plans to challenge the law in court. Part of the law requires people to submit

fingerprints to the state police to get a license to buy a handgun. O'Malley says states with similar laws have substantially lower gun death rates than states that do not. [...] The measure bans 45 types of assault weapons and gun magazines will be limited to 10 bullets.” [Huffington Post, [5/16/13](#)]

- **The NRA Did Not Sue Over The Maryland Law Directly But Supported A Lawsuit By Other Gun Groups “100 Percent.”** According to WBAL TV 11, “Gun clubs and advocates filed a lawsuit claiming that Maryland's new law bans the sale of 68 semiautomatic rifles, shotguns and their copies as prohibited long guns. The law limits magazines to 10 rounds. Legal experts said gun rights groups cleared a significant legal hurdle by getting a hearing. In a separate lawsuit, gun rights supporters are asking for a 90-day delay in the fingerprinting component of the new law. The lawsuit cites concern over the backlog of gun applications. [...] The National Rifle Association is not a party to the lawsuit but supports it 100 percent, stating, ‘SB281 is an unconstitutional infringement on the core right of Maryland citizens to purchase commonly owned semiautomatic firearms for self-defense in the home.’” [WBALTV.com, [9/27/13](#)]

The NRA Filed A “Friend Of The Court” Brief In Support Of The New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Opposing The SAFE Act, Which Banned The Sale Of Assault Weapons

The NRA Filed A “Friend Of The Court” Brief In Support Of The New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Opposing The SAFE Act. According to a web post by the NRA Institute for Legislative Action, “On February 28, NRA President David Keene addressed a rally gathered in Albany, N.Y. to protest the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms (SAFE) Act, telling the crowd of more than 10,000, ‘We’ll help you overcome these statutes in court.’ On March 21, the NRA made good on that promise, assisting the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, the Westchester County Firearm Owner Association, the Sportsmen’s Association for Firearm Education and the New York Amateur Trap Association, along with several businesses and individuals, in filing suit. [...] In support of the case, on May 8 the NRA filed a ‘friend of the court’ brief in support of the plaintiffs. Drawing from a litany of scholarship and case law, the brief dispenses with the often seen legal theories subjecting gun laws to different levels of scrutiny depending on how central they are to the ‘core’ Second Amendment right.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [6/24/13](#)]

The 2013 SAFE Act Ensured “Universal Background Checks; Banned The Sale Of Assault Weapons; And Required Those Already In Possession Of Such Firearms To Register Them With The State.” According to the Legislative Gazette, “Just one day after the deadline for owners of assault weapons to register their firearms, a Supreme Court justice upheld the constitutionality of the controversial SAFE Act — a set of stricter gun regulations adopted by the state in January 2013 following a shooting in Newtown, Conn. that left more than two dozen dead. Among other measures, the SAFE Act ensures universal background checks; banned the sale of assault weapons; and required those already in possession of such firearms to register them with the state by April 15. While Second Amendment advocates say it violates personal freedoms, the legislation has been upheld in courts. [...] [NYSRPA President Tom] King has brought a lawsuit against the state, challenging the SAFE Act. U.S. District Court Judge William Skretney upheld the bill late last year except for a component limiting magazines to seven bullets. NYSRPA and the state have appealed the decision, but police will not enforce the seven round limit until a final ruling is made.” [Legislative Gazette, [4/21/14](#)]

The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund Gave Their New York Affiliate \$80,000 To Fight The SAFE Act. According to an article by New York State Rifle & Pistol Association president Tom King for Ammoland.com, “New York State Rifle & Pistol Association has filed both a Complaint and an Amended Complaint in the USDC for the Western District of New York. Our Amended Complaint claims that the SAFE Act is unconstitutional in that it violates the Second Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause, and is unconstitutionally vague. [...] To date we have spent \$164,000 on the suit and have received an additional \$80,000 from the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund.” [Ammoland.com, [5/15/13](#)]

In 2015, An Appeals Court Upheld The Law’s Ban On Semiautomatic Assault-Style Weapons And A Prohibition On Large-Capacity Ammunition Magazines, But Struck Down The Law’s Seven-Bullet Limit. According to The Buffalo News, “Gun rights advocates say they are pressing on to the United States Supreme Court after an appeals court Monday upheld two key components of New York’s SAFE Act gun control law. The 2nd Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals said the law’s ban on semiautomatic assault-style weapons, along with a prohibition on large-capacity ammunition magazines, both pass constitutional muster and do not violate the Second Amendment rights of gun owners. The court, however, did uphold a lower-court ruling, issued in late 2013 by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny in Erie County, that struck down a SAFE Act component that had made it illegal for individuals to load more than seven rounds of ammunition into a magazine capable of holding 10 rounds.” [Buffalo News, [10/19/15](#)]

- **The New York State Rifle And Pistol Association And Other Plaintiffs In The Case Said They Were Going To Appeal To The U.S. Supreme Court.** According to The Buffalo News, “Gun rights advocates say they are pressing on to the United States Supreme Court after an appeals court Monday upheld two key components of New York’s SAFE Act gun control law. [...] The court rejected the arguments by the plaintiffs – which included the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, the Sportsmen’s Association for Firearms Education and other groups, businesses and individual gun owners – that the law ‘will primarily disarm law-abiding citizens and will thus impair the very public safety objectives they were designed to achieve.’” [Buffalo News, [10/19/15](#)]

THE NRA USED LAWS BANNING CITIES FROM REGULATING GUNS TO ATTACK LOCAL GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LAWS

The NRA Sued Philadelphia, Pittsburgh And Lancaster Over Local Regulation Of Guns, Claiming They “‘Openly Defied’ A 40-Year-Old State Law Forbidding Municipalities From Regulating Firearms.” According to the Trib Live, “Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto on Wednesday fired back at the National Rifle Association, vowing a court battle to overturn a new state law that makes it easier for gun owners to sue and recoup court costs over gun-control regulations. The NRA on Wednesday announced it is suing Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Lancaster because the cities have ‘openly defied’ a 40-year-old state law forbidding municipalities from regulating firearms. Peduto said the city ‘will not be deterred’ by the NRA lawsuit. He said the local regulations are a sensible way to address deadly gun violence. ‘We’re not taking away anyone’s right to own a gun,’ he said. ‘We’re not taking away anyone’s right to own 10 guns. What we’re saying is when that gun is lost or stolen, you’ve got to report it.’” [TribLive.com, [1/14/15](#)]

- **“Under Threat Of Litigation, More Than 20 Pennsylvania Municipalities Have Moved To Repeal Their Firearms Ordinances.”** According to the Trib Live, “The NRA plans to go after other municipalities whose gun ordinances are barred by state law, said the group’s attorney, Jonathan Goldstein. Another group, Houston-based U.S. Law Shield, sued Harrisburg on Tuesday over its gun laws. Under threat of litigation, more than 20 Pennsylvania municipalities have moved to repeal their firearms ordinances. Peduto said Pittsburgh would not be one of them.” [TribLive.com, [1/14/15](#)]

A 2014 Pennsylvania Law Allowed Groups Like The NRA To Sue Communities If They Enacted Tougher Gun Laws Than The State; The Law Was Struck Down By A State Court In 2015

A 2014 Pennsylvania Law Allowed Groups Like The NRA To Sue Communities If They Enacted Tougher Gun Laws Than The State. According to The Morning Call, “A state court has struck down as illegal a 2014 law that had many communities, including Allentown and Bethlehem, fearful of being sued by the National Rifle Association if they enacted tougher gun laws than allowed by state law.” [Morning Call, [6/25/15](#)]

- **The Law Was Struck Down By A State Court In 2015.** According to The Morning Call, “A state court has struck down as illegal a 2014 law that had many communities, including Allentown and Bethlehem, fearful of being sued by the National Rifle Association if they enacted tougher gun laws than allowed by state law. The cities, citing a promised appeal to the state Supreme Court, took a cautionary tone, holding off for now on trying to re-implement stricter local gun laws. ‘If the decision stands,’ Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski said, ‘I will proudly reintroduce our ordinances for council’s consideration and support.’ Commonwealth Court’s 7-0 ruling, issued Thursday, says Act 192 violated the state constitution’s ‘single-subject’ rule, which prohibits unrelated topics from being cobbled together into a single piece of legislation.” [Morning Call, [6/25/15](#)]

The NRA Filed A Lawsuit Against Philadelphia Over Its Gun Violence Prevention Laws Because They Were Stricter Than State Law; The Lawsuit Was Thrown Out Because The NRA Lacked Standing

The NRA Filed A Lawsuit Against Philadelphia Over Its Firearm Ordinances, Which Was Later Thrown Out Because The NRA Lacked Standing. According to the Philadelphia Tribune, “A local judge ruled this week that the National Rifle Association can’t sue the city of Philadelphia over its gun ordinances. Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas Judge Linda Carpenter ruled that the NRA does not have standing to sue the City of Philadelphia over its firearm ordinances because Act 192 of 2014, on which the NRA’s standing to sue in this matter was based, was voided and ruled unconstitutional

on June 25, 2015 after a successful legal challenge by Sens. Daylin Leach, Vincent Hughes and others in *Leach v. Commonwealth*. “The defendants contend that the NRA lacks standing to bring a lawsuit on this matter because of the Leach holding. This Court agrees,” Judge Carpenter wrote in her opinion.” [Philadelphia Tribune, [9/11/15](#)]

- **The Patriot-News: “The NRA Had Challenged Seven Of Philadelphia's Gun Ordinances As Illegal Because They Are Stricter Than State Law.”** According to The Patriot-News, “A Philadelphia judge has thrown out a lawsuit filed by the National Rifle Association against the city, concluding the gun rights group has no legal standing. The NRA had challenged seven of Philadelphia's gun ordinances as illegal because they are stricter than state law.” [Patriot-News, [9/4/15](#)]

The NRA Sued The Town Of Lancaster For Its “Requirement That Lost Or Stolen Guns Must Be Reported To Authorities Within 72 Hours Of Discovering They’re Missing”

The NRA Sued The Town Of Lancaster For Its “Requirement That Lost Or Stolen Guns Must Be Reported To Authorities Within 72 Hours Of Discovering They’re Missing.” According to WITF50, “Lancaster is among a group of cities in Pennsylvania being sued for having gun regulations on the books stricter than state law, and the nation’s most prominent gun-rights group sees the case as open and shut. The National Rifle Association is taking Lancaster to court for its requirement that lost or stolen guns must be reported to authorities within 72 hours of discovering they’re missing.” [WITF.org, [1/16/15](#)]

The NRA Unsuccessfully Sued Pittsburgh In 2009 Over A City Ordinance That Required Gun Owners To “Report Lost Or Stolen Handguns To Police”

The NRA Sued Pittsburgh In 2009 Over A City Ordinance That Required Gun Owners To “Report Lost Or Stolen Handguns To Police,” But Was Unsuccessful. According to Trib Live, “As a councilman in 2008, Peduto sponsored a city ordinance requiring owners to report lost or stolen handguns to police, but officers haven't enforced it because of superseding state law. [...] Peduto said the ordinance was intended to help police solve gun crimes. ‘When we go to find where that gun came from and why that felon was able to have a gun, the person tells us, ‘Oh, it was lost. Oh, it was stolen,’ and they have a get-out-of-jail-free card every time,’ he said. ‘We're trying to close that loophole.’ The NRA in 2009 sued Pittsburgh over the ordinance, but an Allegheny County Court judge upheld it. State appellate courts agreed with the decision.” [TribLive.com, [1/14/15](#)]

- **Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto: We're Not Taking Away Anyone's Right To Own A Gun...What We're Saying Is When That Gun Is Lost Or Stolen, You've Got To Report It.”** According to Trib Live, “Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto on Wednesday fired back at the National Rifle Association, vowing a court battle to overturn a new state law that makes it easier for gun owners to sue and recoup court costs over gun-control regulations. The NRA on Wednesday announced it is suing Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Lancaster because the cities have ‘openly defied’ a 40-year-old state law forbidding municipalities from regulating firearms. Peduto said the city ‘will not be deterred’ by the NRA lawsuit. He said the local regulations are a sensible way to address deadly gun violence. ‘We're not taking away anyone's right to own a gun,’ he said. ‘We're not taking away anyone's right to own 10 guns. What we're saying is when that gun is lost or stolen, you've got to report it.’” [TribLive.com, [1/14/15](#)]

The NRA Paid The Legal Fees Of A Florida Man Suing To Be Allowed To Sell Guns Out Of His Apartment

In 2012 The NRA Paid The Legal Fees Of Florida Resident Richard Lander, Who Was Suing To Be Permitted To Sell Firearms Out Of His Apartment. According to the Tampa Bay Times, “Richard Lander might get to sell guns from his home after all. The city settled its lawsuit last week with Lander, the Australian transplant who wants to sell firearms over the Internet from the apartment he shares with his wife and four children. In 2010, Largo Community Development director Carol Stricklin denied Lander's application for a home office permit. Stricklin said the proposed Internet gun shop was ‘not consistent with maintaining the character of a residential neighborhood.’ Lander, 36, sued Stricklin and the city last July. The National Rifle Association's Civil Rights Defense Fund paid his legal tab. No money changed hands under the settlement, which City Attorney Alan Zimmet announced at Tuesday's commission meeting, but the city agreed to approve Lander's permit.” [Tampa Bay Times, [10/6/12](#)]

- **The Lawsuit Was Settled After “The City Agreed To Approve Lander’s Permit” For A Home Office.** According to the Tampa Bay Times, “Richard Lander might get to sell guns from his home after all. The city settled its lawsuit last week with Lander, the Australian transplant who wants to sell firearms over the Internet from the apartment he shares with his wife and four children. In 2010, Largo Community Development director Carol Stricklin denied Lander's application for a home office permit. Stricklin said the proposed Internet gun shop was ‘not consistent with maintaining the character of a residential neighborhood.’ Lander, 36, sued Stricklin and the city last July. The National Rifle Association's Civil Rights Defense Fund paid his legal tab. No money changed hands under the settlement, which City Attorney Alan Zimmet announced at Tuesday's commission meeting, but the city agreed to approve Lander's permit.” [Tampa Bay Times, [10/6/12](#)]

THE NRA FOUGHT AGAINST STATE AND LOCAL BANS ON HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

The NRA Tried To Overturn Two California Bans On High-Capacity Magazines

The NRA’s California State Affiliate, The California Rifle & Pistol Association, Filed A Lawsuit Over Los Angeles’s High-Capacity Magazine Ban. According to Southern California Public Radio, “Los Angeles's new ban on high-capacity gun magazines may have hit a snag. More than two dozen California sheriffs and a pair of gun rights groups are suing to block the ordinance. They say it violates state law, which bans making and selling the magazines but lets people own them. Attorneys for the California Rifle and Pistol Association — the official National Rifle Association group for the state — filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday seeking to halt the city ban.” [SCPR.org, [10/25/15](#)]

2013: The NRA Sued Sunnyvale, California Over A Ban On Magazines Holding “More Than 10 Rounds Of Ammunition.” According to the San Jose Mercury News, “Sunnyvale's new gun-control ordinance stops at the city line, but the National Rifle Association hopes a federal lawsuit it filed this week challenging the law will ripple all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The gun rights group's highly anticipated suit comes six weeks after 67 percent of Sunnyvale voters approved the ordinance as Measure C. The NRA took aim at part of the ordinance that requires owners of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition to remove them from the city, sell them outside California or to a licensed gun dealer, or give them up to police for destruction within 90 days. Measure C took effect Dec. 6, giving owners until March 6 to comply. But the lawsuit filed Monday -- in which the NRA is backing five Sunnyvale residents who own such magazines -- seeks an injunction halting enforcement of the new law, claiming it impinges upon their Second Amendment right to self-defense.” [San Jose Mercury News, [12/17/13](#)]

- **A Federal Appellate Court Upheld Sunnyvale’s High-Capacity Magazine Ban.** According to San Jose Inside, “A federal appellate court struck down an attempt to void Sunnyvale’s restriction on high-capacity gun magazines, saying the ordinance is a reasonable effort to prevent gun violence. Sunnyvale passed Measure C in 2013, an effort started shortly after the Sandy Hook massacre, with 67 percent of the vote. The decision prevents residents from owning magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. The move sparked national controversy, drew the ire of the gun rights lobby and spurred legal challenges. In 1988, Sunnyvale had its own mass shooting that left seven dead. Gun owner Leonard Fyock immediately sought to repeal Measure C, which garnered the full-throated support of the gun lobby. The National Rifle Association (NRA) argued for Fyock and a four other plaintiffs that the municipal law flouted Second Amendment rights to bear arms in self-defense.” [SanJoseInside.com, [3/9/15](#)]

THE NRA PUSHED THE PASSAGE OF “STAND YOUR GROUND” LAWS NATIONWIDE

Former NRA President Marion Hammer Drafted Florida’s Stand Your Ground Law And Defended It After Trayvon Martin Shooting; “Roughly Two Dozen Other States” Passed Similar Statutes

Bloomberg: Florida’s Stand Your Ground Law “Was Also Hammer’s Doing, And Roughly Two Dozen Other States Have Passed Similar Statutes.” According to Bloomberg, “Then there’s the Stand Your Ground law that generated controversy when George Zimmerman shot Trayvon Martin near Orlando in February. That was also [Marion] Hammer’s doing, and roughly two dozen other states have passed similar statutes.” [Bloomberg, [5/17/12](#)]

Hammer On Stand Your Ground: “I Drafted The Legislation, I Gave It To The Lawyers At NRA, To The Lobbyists, To The Leadership.” According to the transcript of “Dan Rather Reports,” “[DAN] RATHER (Voiceover): Critics charge that Marion Hammer didn't merely lobby for the Castle Doctrine laws -- she actually helped draft Florida's legislation. That's a charge that Marion Hammer acknowledged with defiant pride in our interview with her three years ago: [MARION] HAMMER: I drafted the legislation, I gave it to the lawyers at NRA, to the lobbyists, to the leadership. I explained the problem. This is the problem we're seeing in Florida. This needs to be fixed. Let's fix it. And then they looked it over. The lawyers tweaked it, we worked on it. We got it ready. We found legislators who believed that this legislation was overdue and they introduced it. And we passed it. There's a lot of people behind that 'we.' RATHER (On camera): Today -- in the face of the huge backlash against the Castle Doctrine laws, Marion Hammer is standing her ground.” [Dan Rather Reports, 5/8/12]

After The Trayvon Martin Shooting, Hammer Defended Stand Your Ground As “A Good Law.” According to CNN, “[Marion] Hammer has said little in the wake of the [Trayvon] Martin shooting, except briefly to defend Stand Your Ground as ‘a good law.’ She did not respond to a request to participate in this profile. Nor did she reply to an invitation to go shooting, although it brought a throaty chuckle from the woman who answered the phone at Hammer's office in Tallahassee. Earlier, Hammer told two Florida newspapers that she would have nothing to say to them because of ‘media bias and slant’ against gun rights. [CNN, 4/15/12]

- **Hammer: Officials Should Not Be “Stampeded By Emotionalism... This Law Is Not About One Incident. There Is Absolutely Nothing Wrong With The Law.”** According to The Christian Science Monitor, “For their part, supporters of Stand Your Ground and other gun laws say many of the reactions to the Trayvon Martin shooting smack of political opportunism. Officials should not be ‘stampeded by emotionalism,’ Marion Hammer, an NRA lobbyist who helped write Florida's law, told The Palm Beach Post. ‘This law is not about one incident. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the law.’” [Christian Science Monitor, 4/11/12]

The NRA Pushed And Helped Support The Passage Of “Stand Your Ground” State Laws Throughout The Country

Center For Public Integrity Headline: “NRA Pushed ‘Stand Your Ground’ Laws Across The Nation.” [Center for Public Integrity, [3/26/12](#)]

The NRA Has A “History Of Unabashed Activism On Stand-Your-Ground Legislation” And “Played A Crucial Role In The Passage Of More Than 20 Similar Laws Nationwide.” According to the Center for Public Integrity, “The NRA has been curiously quiet on the matter since the shooting as the nation takes stock — in light of the Martin case and other similar examples — of whether ‘stand-your-ground’ laws are more dangerous than useful to enhance public safety. The gun-rights organization did not respond to requests for comment. But the group’s silence contrasts sharply with its history of unabashed activism on stand-your-ground legislation. Since the Florida measure passed, the NRA has flexed its considerable muscle and played a crucial role in the passage of more than 20 similar laws nationwide.” [Center for Public Integrity, [3/26/12](#)]

NRA-ILA: Attorney General Eric Holder “And The Obama Administration Will Surely Continue To Push To Overturn ‘Stand Your Ground’ Self-Defense Laws...Rest Assured NRA-ILA Will Be There To Fight Them.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “In response to Holder's remarks, NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox had this to say: ‘The attorney general fails to understand that self-defense is not a concept, it's a fundamental human right. To send a message that legitimate self-defense is to blame is unconscionable, and demonstrates once again that this administration will exploit tragedies to push their political agenda.’ Holder and the Obama administration will surely continue to push to overturn ‘stand your ground’ self-defense laws in the future. Rest assured NRA-ILA will be there to fight them. We will continue to work to protect self-defense laws currently on the books and advocate for their passage in those states that do not fully respect this fundamental right.” [NRAILA.org, [7/19/13](#)]

The NRA Worked With ALEC To Push Stand Your Ground

“To Spread The Word” On Stand Your Ground, “The NRA Said In An Aug. 12, 2005 Website Posting, It Approached The Conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, Which Drafts Legislation.” According to the Center for Public Integrity, “The Florida law is rooted in the centuries-old English common law concept known as the ‘Castle

Doctrine,' which holds that the right of self-defense is accepted in one's home. But the Florida law and others like it expand that established right to venues beyond a home. Since Florida adopted its law in 2005, the NRA has aggressively pursued adoption of stand-your-ground laws elsewhere as part of a broader agenda to increase gun-carrying rights it believes are rightly due citizens under the 2nd Amendment. [...] To spread the word, the NRA said in an Aug. 12, 2005 website posting, it approached the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, which drafts legislation for like-minded state lawmakers. ALEC, as it is known, adopted model stand-your-ground legislative language in 2005 after Florida's top NRA representative made a presentation." [Center for Public Integrity, [3/26/12](#)]

ALEC "Adopted Model Stand-Your-Ground Legislative Language In 2005 After Florida's Top NRA Representative Made A Presentation." According to the Center for Public Integrity, "The Florida law is rooted in the centuries-old English common law concept known as the 'Castle Doctrine,' which holds that the right of self-defense is accepted in one's home. But the Florida law and others like it expand that established right to venues beyond a home. Since Florida adopted its law in 2005, the NRA has aggressively pursued adoption of stand-your-ground laws elsewhere as part of a broader agenda to increase gun-carrying rights it believes are rightly due citizens under the 2nd Amendment. [...] To spread the word, the NRA said in an Aug. 12, 2005 website posting, it approached the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, which drafts legislation for like-minded state lawmakers. ALEC, as it is known, adopted model stand-your-ground legislative language in 2005 after Florida's top NRA representative made a presentation." [Center for Public Integrity, [3/26/12](#)]

- **NRA Board Member Marion Hammer Presented Proposed "Model Legislation Based On Florida's Landmark 'Castle Doctrine' Law...It Will Officially Become ALEC Model Legislation In 30 Days."** According to a post on the NRA-ILA website, "At the recent Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) in Grapevine, TX, Marion Hammer presented the ALEC Criminal Justice Task Force with proposed model legislation based on Florida's landmark 'Castle Doctrine' law, that passed in Florida earlier this year. Her talk was well-received, and the task force subsequently adopted the measure unanimously. It will officially become ALEC Model Legislation in 30 days if there is no objection from the ALEC Board of Directors." [NRAILA.org/articles, [8/12/05](#)]

THE NRA PUSHED FOR LEGISLATION ALLOWING GUNS IN SCHOOLS

CNN Headline: "NRA Clear On Gun Debate Stance: Arm Schools." [CNN, [12/21/12](#)]

CNN: The NRA Responded To The Mass Shooting In Connecticut By "Doubling Down On Its Own Position: More Guns, Not Fewer, Provide True Security." According to CNN, "The National Rifle Association responded Friday to a chorus of voices calling for gun control in the wake of last week's horrific mass shooting in Connecticut by doubling down on its own position: more guns, not fewer, provide true security. After one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history -- 20 children and seven adults killed, not including the gunman -- polls show that a slight majority of Americans favor restrictions on guns. Conservative Democrats and even some Republicans who have supported gun rights have said they are open to discussing gun control." [CNN, [12/21/12](#)]

The NRA Proposed Using "Not Just Police Officers, But Armed Volunteers...To Patrol School Grounds." According to The New York Times, "Mr. LaPierre said his organization would finance and develop a program called the National Model School Shield Program, to work with schools to arm and train school guards, including retired police officers and volunteers. The gun rights group named Asa Hutchinson, a former Republican congressman from Arkansas and administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency, to lead a task force to develop the program. [...] But what the N.R.A. proposed would expand the use of armed officers nationwide and make greater use of not just police officers, but armed volunteers — including retired police officers and reservists — to patrol school grounds. The organization offered no estimates of the cost." [New York Times, [12/21/12](#)]

NRA VP Wayne LaPierre Called For Armed Guards "In Every American School." According to CBS News, "In a press conference reflecting on last week's massacre in Newtown, Conn., the National Rifle Association's Wayne LaPierre today called on Congress to put armed law enforcement agents in every American school, insisting that guns in schools -- not tougher gun laws -- would most effectively protect children from school shootings." [CBS News, [12/21/12](#)]

NRA-Funded Task Force Advised Schools "To Train Teachers And Other School Personnel To Carry Guns To Protect Their Students." According to NBC News, "A National Rifle Association-funded task force on Tuesday outlined a package of recommendations aimed at improving school safety, leaving aside the new gun controls that Congress is

considering and instead advising schools to train teachers and other school personnel to carry guns to protect their students.” [NBC News, [4/2/13](#)]

- **2013: Pew Research Poll: 57 Percent Of Americans Opposed “More Teachers And School Officials Having Guns In Schools.”** According to a Pew Research Center poll, 57 percent of Americans opposed and 40 percent favored “more teachers and school officials having guns in schools.” [Pew Research Center, [January 2013](#)]

THE NRA OPPOSED RESTRICTING ARMOR PIERCING BULLETS; ISSUED ALERTS THAT CAUSED SALES OF THE BULLETS TO SOAR

The NRA Sent Out Urgent Alerts To Its Members After The Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms And Explosives Said It Planned To Restrict Armor-Piercing Rifle Bullets. According to The New York Times, “The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said this month that it planned to restrict the armor-piercing 5.56-millimeter ‘M855 green tip’ rifle bullet because of new handguns that use the ammunition and pose a greater threat to the police. [...] The proposal would allow people to use up the ammunition they have already bought. Gun shops and firearms organizations on Thursday said there had been a rush to snap up cases of the bullets since the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups sent out urgent alerts to their members. Those alerts accused Mr. Obama of seeking to enact by the backdoor gun control measures that he could not pass in Congress in 2013.” [New York Times, [2/26/15](#)]

The NRA Alerts Accused President Obama “Of Seeking To Enact By The Backdoor Gun Control Measures That He Could Not Pass In Congress In 2013.” According to The New York Times, “The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said this month that it planned to restrict the armor-piercing 5.56-millimeter ‘M855 green tip’ rifle bullet because of new handguns that use the ammunition and pose a greater threat to the police. [...] The proposal would allow people to use up the ammunition they have already bought. Gun shops and firearms organizations on Thursday said there had been a rush to snap up cases of the bullets since the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups sent out urgent alerts to their members. Those alerts accused Mr. Obama of seeking to enact by the backdoor gun control measures that he could not pass in Congress in 2013.” [New York Times, [2/26/15](#)]

NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox On ATF Restricting Armor Piercing Bullets: This Is Obama’s “Latest Action In A Lifetime Devoted To The Dismantling Of The Second Amendment.” According to The New York Times, “The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said this month that it planned to restrict the armor-piercing 5.56-millimeter “M855 green tip’ rifle bullet because of new handguns that use the ammunition and pose a greater threat to the police. [...] Chris W. Cox, the executive director of the N.R.A.’s Institute for Legislative Action, criticized Mr. Obama. ‘This latest action, while alarming, isn’t surprising, as it is his latest action in a lifetime devoted to the dismantling of the Second Amendment,’ Mr. Cox said.” [New York Times, [2/26/15](#)]

Montgomery County, MD Police Chief, J. Thomas Manger: Armor Piercing Bullets Are “Called Cop-Killing Bullets...I Think Every Cop Understands That.” According to an opinion by columnist Joe Nocera for The New York Times, “On Friday afternoon, however, I spoke to J. Thomas Manger, the chief of the Montgomery County, Md., police department, and the president of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, which supports the A.T.F. effort. ‘Congress has asked them to make these kinds of decisions, and Congress should heed their recommendation,’ he said. When I mentioned that armor-piercing ammunition used to be called cop-killer bullets, he quickly corrected me. ‘They’re still called cop-killing bullets,’ Manger said. ‘I think every cop understands that.’” [Joe Nocera – New York Times, [3/6/15](#)]

“The NRA And Hundreds Of Members Of Congress Protested The BATFE’s Move” To Restrict The Bullets, “And The Proposal Was Withdrawn.” According to The Tennessean, “The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has allowed the sale and production of the M855 ammunition because it had a ‘sporting purpose’ and, until recently, could be fired only from rifles. But the agency reconsidered the exemption because a new firearm — a semiautomatic pistol based on a shortened AR-15 rifle — could be used to fire the M855 and pierce the protective armor worn by law enforcement. The NRA and hundreds of members of Congress protested the BATFE’s move, and the proposal was withdrawn in March.” [Tennessean, [4/9/15](#)]

Urgent Alerts From The NRA On The Ammunition Restrictions Caused A Rush To Buy The Bullets

The NRA Used The Proposed Ammunition Restrictions As A “Rallying Cry.” According to The Tennessean, “As the National Rifle Association opens the doors to 70,000 gun enthusiasts in downtown Nashville, the short but intense dispute over the M855 ammunition is exhibit A in the NRA's convention theme that the federal government is a threat to Second Amendment rights. Banners over the doors at the NRA's annual convention say, ‘If they can ban one, they can ban them all,’ next to a picture of a bullet piercing through a splatter of green paint. The M855 ammunition, also known as green tip, is used in the popular AR-15 rifle. ‘It is a rallying cry for our members,’ said NRA spokeswoman Jennifer Baker. ‘The banners say it all.’” [Tennessean, [4/9/15](#)]

After The “National Rifle Association...Sent Out Urgent Alerts To Their Members” There Was A “Rush To Snap Up Cases Of The Bullets.” According to The New York Times, “The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said this month that it planned to restrict the armor-piercing 5.56-millimeter ‘M855 green tip’ rifle bullet because of new handguns that use the ammunition and pose a greater threat to the police. Previously, the millions of inexpensive green-tip steel and lead bullets sold each year were only for rifles typically used by target shooters and hunters. [...] The proposal would allow people to use up the ammunition they have already bought. Gun shops and firearms organizations on Thursday said there had been a rush to snap up cases of the bullets since the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups sent out urgent alerts to their members. Those alerts accused Mr. Obama of seeking to enact by the backdoor gun control measures that he could not pass in Congress in 2013.” [New York Times, [2/26/15](#)]

Gun Shops And Firearms Organizations Said “There Had Been A Rush To Snap Up Cases Of The Ammunition Since The National Rifle Association And Other Gun Rights Groups Sent Out Urgent Alerts To Their Members.” According to the Dallas Morning News, “President Barack Obama’s administration has proposed banning the manufacture and sale of one of the most popular bullets used in AR-15 semi-automatic rifles, a move that has enraged gun rights advocates and caused a run on the ammunition at gun shops across the country. [...] The proposal would allow people to use up the ammunition they have already purchased. Gun shops and firearms organizations on Thursday said there had been a rush to snap up cases of the ammunition since the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups sent out urgent alerts to their members.” [Dallas Morning News, [2/26/15](#)]

THE NRA CAME UNDER FIRE FOR AN AD WHICH PLACED BULLETS NEXT TO IMAGES OF LAWMAKERS WHO PROPOSED AN AMMO CONTROL BILL

New York Daily News: “NRA Tweets Image With Bullets Next To Pictures Of Brooklyn Lawmakers Who Announced State Ammo Limit Bill.” [New York Daily News, [1/5/16](#)]

New York Daily News: “The NRA Targeted A Pair Of Brooklyn Lawmakers Monday With A Menacing Image Of Bullets Next To Photos” Of The Legislators; The Ad Was Condemned As A “Veiled Threat.” According to the New York Daily News, “Just four days before the fifth anniversary of the shooting of Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, the NRA targeted a pair of Brooklyn lawmakers Monday with a menacing image of bullets next to photos of the two gun control advocates. America’s 1st Freedom, an NRA publication, tweeted the image of state Sen. Roxanne Persaud and Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon, both Democrats, weeks after they announced legislation aimed at controlling the sale of ammunition. The two lawmakers and other local supporters — including Mayor de Blasio and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams — condemned what came across as a veiled threat.” [New York Daily News, [1/5/16](#)]



Americas1stFreedom @NRAA1F · 3h

Sounding off on one of the most ridiculous anti-gun schemes introduced in some time: goo.gl/z7pNeg



[New York Daily News, [1/5/16](#)]

THE NRA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAWS BANNING DOCTORS FROM TALKING TO PATIENTS AND CHILDREN ABOUT GUN SAFETY

The NRA Prevented Doctors And Pediatricians From Talking To Their Patients About Gun Safety

The American Academy Of Pediatrics Support For Gun Control And Its Recommendation That Doctors Talk About Gun Safety With Parents “Landed It On The...NRA’s List Of Enemies.” According to the Daily Beast, “For the past three decades, the American Academy of Pediatrics—some 62,000 members strong—has been an outspoken voice on the issue of gun control, a position that has landed it on the NRA’s (admittedly very long) list of enemies. In 1992, the AAP issued its first policy statement supporting a handgun and assault weapons ban, making it the first public health organization to do so, and it has long recommended that doctors talk about gun safety with parents.” [Daily Beast, [5/15/14](#)]

The NRA “Says Pediatricians Have No Business Talking About Gun Laws.” According to the Daily Beast, “For its part, the National Rifle Association (NRA) says pediatricians have no business talking about gun laws. ‘The AAP has a long history of advocating for gun control measures that a majority of the American people have rejected time and time again,’ says NRA spokesperson Catherine Mortensen, citing in particular the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program, which it says has been used to teach gun safety to over 27 million children since 1988. ‘The fact is, no one does more to promote gun safety, education, and training than the National Rifle Association,’ Mortensen says. ‘And if these pediatricians want to help us promote that message, we would welcome their membership in the NRA. Dues are 25 dollars a year.’” [Daily Beast, [5/15/14](#)]

The NRA Backed Legislation In Florida And At Least Five Other States That Would Forbid Pediatricians “From Asking About Guns In The Home”

The NRA Backed Legislation In Florida And At Least Five Other States That Would Forbid Pediatricians “From Asking About Guns In The Home.” According to the Daily Beast, “Most recently, the NRA and the AAP have been embroiled in a very public legal feud over the rights of doctors to talk with parents about gun safety. In 2011, Florida Governor Rick Scott signed a NRA-sponsored law that forbade pediatricians from asking about guns in the home. A federal judge later struck down the law as unconstitutional and a decision on the state’s appeal is pending. The NRA has sponsored similar legislation in at least five other states—Alabama, North Carolina, West Virginia, Minnesota, and Oklahoma.” [Daily Beast, [5/15/14](#)]

NRA Spokesperson Catherine Mortensen: Florida, Missouri And Montana “Have State Laws Prohibiting Physicians From Asking About Firearms Ownership And We Think That Those Laws Are Effective...That's Something We'd Like To See Extended.” According to Fox43 News, “The National Rifle Association doesn't agree. ‘I mean it's common

sense. Doctors are not firearm safety experts, they have no business prying into your personal life and asking you about a fundamental constitutional right,' said NRA spokesperson Catherine Mortensen. In Pennsylvania doctors can still ask the question, but that's not the case everywhere. 'We have three states, Florida, Missouri and Montana, that have state laws prohibiting physicians from asking about firearms ownership and we think that those laws are effective. They were challenged in the courts and upheld and that's something we'd like to see extended,' said Mortensen." [Fox43 News, [11/25/14](#)]

The NRA-Backed Florida Bill Which Forbade Doctors From Discussing Firearms In The Home And Firearm Safety Was Signed Into Law By Gov. Rick Scott In June 2014. According to the Atlantic, "The American College of Physicians is similarly proactive, calling gun violence a public health issue 'requiring immediate attention.' The group, of which most practicing internal-medicine doctors are members, declared in its recent position statement: 'Physicians must become more active in counseling patients about firearm safety.' The college implores doctors to open that conversation by asking patients (with and without children in their homes) about gun ownership. As of two weeks ago, that is no longer legal in Florida. In a 2-1 vote, a U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a law called the Florida Privacy of Firearm Owners Act, ruling that doctors asking patients about firearms violates patients' right to privacy. [...]The American Medical Association calls gun violence a horrific epidemic. In 2011, the group issued a call for doctors to counsel patients on gun safety. In response, Florida Governor Rick Scott, backed by the National Rifle Association, signed the Privacy of Firearm Owners Act that June." [Atlantic, [8/11/14](#)]

The Law "Threatens Doctors With Professional Discipline If They Ask Patients Whether They Own Guns

The Law "Threatens Doctors With Professional Discipline If They Ask Patients Whether They Own Guns Or Record The Resulting Information In A Patient's Files When Doing So Is Not 'Relevant' To A Patient's Medical Care." According to an editorial by The New York Times, "The case, *Wollschlaeger v. Governor of Florida*, concerned the constitutionality of the Florida Firearm Owners Privacy Act. That 2011 law threatens doctors with professional discipline if they ask patients whether they own guns or record the resulting information in a patient's files when doing so is not 'relevant' to a patient's medical care." [Editorial – New York Times, [8/2/14](#)]

- **The Florida Law Was Upheld By The 11th Circuit Court.** According to an editorial by The New York Times, "The case, *Wollschlaeger v. Governor of Florida*, concerned the constitutionality of the Florida Firearm Owners Privacy Act. That 2011 law threatens doctors with professional discipline if they ask patients whether they own guns or record the resulting information in a patient's files when doing so is not 'relevant' to a patient's medical care. [...] Nevertheless, it is a theory a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit found persuasive. By a 2-to-1 vote, it concluded that when doctors ask questions of their patients, those questions constitute medical treatment wholly outside the First Amendment. As the majority argued, medical treatment "may begin with an inquiry ('Do you smoke?'), followed by a recommendation and some amount of counseling ('You should quit smoking because smoking has been shown to cause cancer')." And none of that, apparently, is 'speech.'" [Editorial – New York Times, [8/2/14](#)]
- **New York Times Editorial: The Ruling Was "A Symbolic Victory For Gun Rights," That Came "At The Cost Of A Serious And Dangerous Defeat For The First Amendment."** According to an editorial by The New York Times, "Nevertheless, it is a theory a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit found persuasive. By a 2-to-1 vote, it concluded that when doctors ask questions of their patients, those questions constitute medical treatment wholly outside the First Amendment. [...] While some of our fellow Second Amendment advocates may be tempted to celebrate this ruling, it is, at most, a symbolic victory for gun rights. And it comes at the cost of a serious and dangerous defeat for the First Amendment. Indeed, it's hard to overstate the sweeping effect of this rule. Imagine if tobacco companies successfully lobbied for a law that prohibited doctors from asking patients whether they smoke. Some doctors may want to know so they can conduct lung examinations, while others may just want to urge their patients to stop. But everyone should recognize that a law outlawing a simple question infringes on speech." [Editorial – New York Times, [8/2/14](#)]
- **NRA-ILA Headline: "A Sick Law Gets Cured: Doctors Can No Longer Ask Patients If They Own A Firearm."** [NRAILA.org/articles, [10/1/14](#)]

Scientific American: Guns Are "One Of The Biggest Threats To Public Health In The U.S... To Wall Off This Topic From Doctor-Patient Conversations Is A Dangerous Step"

Scientific American Editorial: Guns Are “One Of The Biggest Threats To Public Health In The U.S...To Wall Off This Topic From Doctor-Patient Conversations Is A Dangerous Step.” According to an editorial by Scientific American, “The questions concern guns and gun safety. This year the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit has been hearing arguments about a Florida statute that says doctors cannot ask a patient about gun ownership—including safety issues and children's access—unless they believe such information is relevant to the patient's medical care. If the law is upheld, doctors will not be able to talk to patients about one of the biggest threats to public health in the U.S.—guns were involved in slightly more than 11,000 homicides, 21,000 suicides and 500 accidental deaths in 2013, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To wall off this topic from doctor-patient conversations is a dangerous step.” [Editorial – Scientific American, [7/14/15](#)]

While Banning Doctors From Talking To Children About Guns, The NRA Published Pro-Gun Versions Of Fairy Tales Aimed At Children

Washington Post: The NRA’s NRA Family Website Featured Stories Where “The Characters From Your Favorite Childhood Fairy Tales And Fables Are Armed.” According to the Washington Post, “Imagine a world where the characters from your favorite childhood fairy tales and fables are armed. Hansel with a hunting rifle. Or Little Red Riding Hood’s granny with a shotgun. That world now exists on the National Rifle Association’s NRA Family website, which partnered with author Amelia Hamilton ‘to present her twist on those classic tales’ — a series that has infuriated gun-control advocates, some of whom called it ‘disgusting.’” [Washington Post, [3/24/16](#)]

Washington Post: “So Far In 2016, At Least 52 Children Under Age 18 Have Picked Up A Firearm And Accidentally Shot Themselves Or Someone Else.” According to the Washington Post, “So far in 2016, at least 52 children under age 18 have picked up a firearm and accidentally shot themselves or someone else, according to data from the gun-control group Everytown for Gun Safety.” [Washington Post, [3/24/16](#)]

Brady Campaign Statement: “Make No Mistake, This Is A Disgusting, Morally Depraved Marketing Campaign... The NRA Continues To Stoop To New Lows In The Hopes Of Shoving Guns Into America’s Youngest Hands. If Nothing Else, This Approach Demonstrates Just How Desperate The Organization Has Become To Sell More Guns.” According to the Washington Post, “On Friday, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence said the NRA had ‘freshened things up with a few familiar faces from the world’s most beloved fairy tales — and armed them with guns.’ ‘Make no mistake, this is a disgusting, morally depraved marketing campaign,’ Dan Gross, the organization’s president, said in a statement. ‘The NRA continues to stoop to new lows in the hopes of shoving guns into America’s youngest hands. If nothing else, this approach demonstrates just how desperate the organization has become to sell more guns — it must now advertise deadly weapons to kids by perverting childhood classics with no regard whatsoever for the real life carnage happening every day.’” [Washington Post, [3/24/16](#)]

The NRA Fought Against Reasonable Federal Gun Safety Measures

THE NRA DEFEATED ALL PROPOSED GUN SAFETY MEASURES AFTER THE SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MASS SHOOTING

“The NRA Mobilized To Oppose The Obama-Led Push For New Gun-Control Laws Following The Dec. 14 Shooting Deaths Of 20 Children And Six Educators At An Elementary School In Newtown, Connecticut.” According to Bloomberg, “The NRA mobilized to oppose the Obama-led push for new gun-control laws following the Dec. 14 shooting deaths of 20 children and six educators at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. The measures, in a series of April votes, failed to get the 60 votes needed to advance in the 100-member Senate.” [Bloomberg, [5/4/13](#)]

New York Times: “Over The Years The N.R.A. Has Perfected Its Strategy For Responding To Mass Shootings: Lie Low At First, Then Slow-Roll Any Legislative Push For A Response.” According to The New York Times, “Over the years the N.R.A. has perfected its strategy for responding to mass shootings: Lie low at first, then slow-roll any legislative push for a response. After the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999, for example, an effort to close the so-called gun-show loophole, requiring unlicensed dealers at gun shows to run background checks, ultimately died in conference after being stalled for months.” [New York Times, [12/17/12](#)]

GOP Presidential Candidates Praised The NRA For Defeating All The Proposed Anti-Gun Violence Measures After The Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting In Newton, Conn. According to Bloomberg, “The Texas Senator Ted Cruz and a parade of other possible 2016 Republican presidential candidates anchored the opening day of the National Rifle Association’s annual conference as they praised the lobby group for its efforts to defeat President Barack Obama’s gun legislation. Pressure from NRA members derailed ‘what looked like an unstoppable freight train,’ Cruz said yesterday, referring to measures such as expanded background checks for firearm purchases that stalled in the Senate last month.” [Bloomberg, [5/4/13](#)]

- **The Measures Included Banning Certain Assault Rifles, Limiting The Size Of Ammunition Magazines And Expanded Background Checks.** According to the Washington Post, “One by one, the Senate blocked or defeated proposals that would ban certain military-style assault rifles and limit the size of ammunition magazines. But the biggest setback for the White House was the defeat of a measure to expand background checks to most gun sales. The Senate defied polls showing that nine in 10 Americans support the idea, which was designed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.” [Washington Post, [4/17/13](#)]

“Within Minutes” Of The NRA’s Opening Forum At Their Annual Meeting” NRA Leaders “Went After Gun Control Proposals...Following The Newtown Elementary School Massacre.” According to CNN, “Within minutes of the National Rifle Association's opening forum at their annual meeting Friday, the group's leaders went after gun control proposals and advocates who sought to expand tougher firearm laws following the Newtown elementary school massacre.” [CNN, [5/3/13](#)]

The NRA “Helped To Defeat” A Ban On Assault Weapons, “A Limit On Large Capacity Magazines...And What Might Have Seemed A Thoroughly Noncontroversial Measure To Make Gun Trafficking A Crime.” According to the Center for Public Integrity, “Of course the background check amendment was not the only gun control proposal NRA supporters helped defeat. Senators also voted down a ban on assault weapons (40-60), a limit on large capacity magazines (46-54), and what might have seemed a thoroughly noncontroversial measure to make gun trafficking a crime (58-42). On top of that, they nearly passed (57-43) what is probably the NRA’s top legislative priority, a ‘reciprocity’ measure that would have allowed citizens holding concealed weapons permits from any state to legally carry them in any other state that allows for concealed carry, even those with much tougher rules.” [Center for Public Integrity, [5/1/13](#)]

NRA Helped Defeat Background Checks

Supporters Of The Manchin-Toomey Bill Expanding Gun Purchase Background Checks “Were Caught Off Guard By The Vigorous Lobbying Campaign” Waged Against It By The NRA. According to The Hill, “The Senate delivered a devastating blow to President Obama’s agenda to regulate guns Wednesday by defeating a bipartisan proposal to expand background checks. [...] Democrats felt confident the compromise could pass once Toomey, a Republican with an A rating from the National Rifle Association, signed on. They were caught off guard by the vigorous lobbying campaign waged by the NRA, which warned lawmakers that Manchin-Toomey would be a factor in its congressional scorecard.” [The Hill, [4/17/13](#)]

NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox: “NRA Does NOT Support Universal Background Checks... And Will Continue To Oppose, Universal Background Checks And Registration Schemes.” According to a statement from NEA-ILA head Chris Cox on the NRA-ILA website, “An article appearing on TheHill.com yesterday asserted that Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) is working on a bill with the NRA that would implement universal background checks. NRA does NOT support universal background checks and is not working with Manchin to implement this type of legislation. NRA opposes, and will continue to oppose, universal background checks and registration schemes.” [NRAILA.org/news via Archive.org, [1/25/13](#)]

The NRA “Launched A Full-Court Press” Against The Bill Expanding Background Checks “Mobilizing Its Four Million Members And Army Of Lobbyists To Defeat The Bill.” According to Business Insider, “The Senate on Wednesday defeated a bipartisan compromise to expand background checks for gun purchases, marking an ignominious end of a four-month national debate over how to curb the gun violence epidemic in the United States. [...] In the weeks leading up to the vote, the NRA launched a full-court press to pressure lawmakers, mobilizing its four million members and army of lobbyists to defeat the bill. Fairly or unfairly, the organization convinced many gun owners that voting for background checks would increase costs for gun owners and ultimately lead to a national gun registry — and succeeded in turning four Democrats and all but four Republicans against the bill.” [Business Insider, [4/18/13](#)]

The NRA “Convinced Many Gun Owners That Voting For Background Checks Would Increase Costs For Gun Owners And Ultimately Lead To A National Gun Registry.” According to Business Insider, “The Senate on Wednesday defeated a bipartisan compromise to expand background checks for gun purchases, marking an ignominious end of a four-month national debate over how to curb the gun violence epidemic in the United States. [...] In the weeks leading up to the vote, the NRA launched a full-court press to pressure lawmakers, mobilizing its four million members and army of lobbyists to defeat the bill. Fairly or unfairly, the organization convinced many gun owners that voting for background checks would increase costs for gun owners and ultimately lead to a national gun registry — and succeeded in turning four Democrats and all but four Republicans against the bill.” [Business Insider, [4/18/13](#)]

The NRA Made It “Impossible For Red-State Lawmakers To Support Gun Control Legislation.” According to Business Insider, “The organization made it so impossible for red-state lawmakers to support gun control legislation, that Begich and Pryor eventually signed on to cosponsor alternative background check legislation drafted with help from the NRA.” [Business Insider, [4/18/13](#)]

NRA Opposed Legislation “To Crack Down On Gun Trafficking”

NRA Opposed Legislation “To Crack Down On Gun Trafficking,” Which Had “Garnered Rare Republican Support In Both Chambers.” According to The Hill, “A central part of the Senate’s gun control package is in danger of being gutted as the National Rifle Association voices opposition. Legislation to crack down on gun trafficking has garnered rare Republican support in both chambers and has long been seen as low-hanging fruit. Increased penalties on straw purchases of guns sailed through the Senate Judiciary Committee and looked like a safe bet to win Senate approval even as other provisions — including the expanded background checks that remain a goal for gun control supporters — ran into trouble. Now the straw-purchasing bill could be in danger because of NRA demands to change the language so law enforcement officials would have to prove that a straw purchaser intended to commit a crime or further the commission of a crime by buying a gun for someone else.” [The Hill, [4/3/13](#)]

The NRA Also Wanted To Change The Language That Allowed “The Government To Confiscate A Convicted Straw Purchaser’s Guns And Ammunition.” According to The Hill, “‘It potentially holds people liable for the intention of parties far down the chain of possession,’ NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam wrote in an email to The Hill. The NRA also wants to change language allowing the government to confiscate a convicted straw purchaser’s guns and ammunition, according to a draft copy of the group’s proposed changes to the measure. ‘It overrides special protection against forfeiture of firearms that Congress enacted in 1986, in response to [the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives] history of seizing entire gun collections or store inventories based on small numbers of illegal sales,’ Arulanandam said.” [The Hill, [4/3/13](#)]

Rep. Carolyn Maloney: “Reports About The Draft NRA Proposal Suggest That It Would Water Down Even Current Law.” According to The Hill, “The move has outraged supporters of the bill’s language, including House sponsor Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.). ‘Reports about the draft NRA proposal suggest that it would water down even current law, making it harder — not easier — for law enforcement officials to keep guns out of the hands of criminals by increasing the threshold for convicting straw purchasers,’ she said in a statement to The Hill.” [The Hill, [4/3/13](#)]

NRA Was Opposed To All Compromise On Gun Safety Measures, Even Those Proposed By Republicans

The NRA Opposed All Measures In The Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013 Including A Bipartisan “Misguided ‘Compromise’ Proposal.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “The underlying bill that will be considered by the Senate is S. 649, the so-called ‘Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013.’ A number of amendments will be offered to S. 649, including a ban on commonly and lawfully-owned firearms and magazines and language to criminalize the private transfer of firearms and force gun owners to get government permission to transfer guns to friends after ‘advertising’ that might be as little as a Facebook post or a listing in a gun club newsletter. This language--a misguided ‘compromise’ proposal drafted by Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.V.), Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) and Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.)--would be proposed as an alternative to Sen. Schumer’s background check provisions that are currently in the bill.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [4/12/13](#)]

“NRA’s Position On These Proposals Is Unmistakably Clear--We Are Unequivocally Opposed To” The Safe Schools Act And “Any Other Anti-Gun Amendments.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “NRA’s

position on these proposals is unmistakably clear--we are unequivocally opposed to S. 649, the amendments mentioned above, and any other anti-gun amendments. As we have noted previously, expanding background checks at gun shows or elsewhere will not reduce violent crime or keep our kids safe in their schools. Given the importance of these issues, votes on all anti-gun amendments or proposals will be considered in NRA's future candidate evaluations." [NRAILA.org/articles, [4/12/13](#)]

“Given The Importance Of These Issues, Votes On All Anti-Gun Amendments Or Proposals Will Be Considered In NRA's Future Candidate Evaluations.” According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “NRA's position on these proposals is unmistakably clear--we are unequivocally opposed to S. 649, the amendments mentioned above, and any other anti-gun amendments. As we have noted previously, expanding background checks at gun shows or elsewhere will not reduce violent crime or keep our kids safe in their schools. Given the importance of these issues, votes on all anti-gun amendments or proposals will be considered in NRA's future candidate evaluations.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [4/12/13](#)]

NRA DEFEATED A RENEWAL OF THE FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN IN 2004

In 2004, NRA-ILA Lobbyists “Helped Ensure The End Of The Federal Assault Weapons Ban.” According to Bloomberg, “At about the same time the NRA began seeking more in contributions, its lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Affairs, notched political successes that benefited the firearms industry. In 2004, ILA lobbyists helped ensure the end of the federal assault weapons ban; U.S. makers’ annual rifle production has increased about 38 percent since, according to ATF data.” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

The NRA “Made Overturning The Ban Its Top Legislative Priority.” According to The New York Times, “But the N.R.A., which has made overturning the ban its top legislative priority, says the law bans only ‘cosmetic accessories’ on guns, and does little other than place a burden on gun manufacturers. ‘We felt from the very start it was bogus legislation,’ Wayne LaPierre, the association's chief executive, said.” [New York Times, [9/9/04](#)]

“Despite Widespread Popular Support, The Federal Law Banning The Sale Of 19 Kinds Of Semiautomatic Assault Weapons Is Almost Certain To Expire” Because Of “Intense Lobbying By The National Rifle Association.” According to The New York Times, “Despite widespread popular support, the federal law banning the sale of 19 kinds of semiautomatic assault weapons is almost certain to expire on Monday, the result of intense lobbying by the National Rifle Association and the complicated election-year politics of Washington. While President Bush has expressed support for legislation extending the ban and has said he would sign it into law, he has not pressured lawmakers to act, leading critics to accuse him of trying to have it both ways.” [New York Times, [9/9/04](#)]

A Former NRA Official Predicted A “Buying Frenzy” For Assault Weapons And Since The End Of The Ban “Annual Rifle Production Has Increased About 38 Percent”

Former NRA Official Robert Ricker Foresaw A “Buying Frenzy” For “Previously Banned Military-Style Weapons And High-Capacity Magazines.” According to The New York Times, “Robert Ricker, a former NRA official who consults with gun control groups, foresees a ‘buying frenzy’ for the previously banned military-style weapons and high-capacity magazines. ‘Gun owners are thinking, “If John Kerry gets elected, chances are that a stiffer ban, or a reauthorization, will eventually happen, so I had better get my assault weapon now.” ... I think the industry's mantra is going to be, “Buy your wife a high-capacity magazine for Christmas while you can.”’” [New York Times, [9/9/04](#)]

Since The End Of The Assault Weapons Ban “U.S. Makers’ Annual Rifle Production Has Increased About 38 Percent.” According to Bloomberg, “At about the same time the NRA began seeking more in contributions, its lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Affairs, notched political successes that benefited the firearms industry. In 2004, ILA lobbyists helped ensure the end of the federal assault weapons ban; U.S. makers’ annual rifle production has increased about 38 percent since, according to ATF data.” [Bloomberg, [12/29/11](#)]

2011: THE NRA UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO OVERTURN A “FEDERAL LAW BARRING HANDGUN SALES BY LICENSED GUN DEALERS TO PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 21”

In 2011, The NRA Sued To Overturn A “Federal Law Barring Handgun Sales By Licensed Gun Dealers To People Under The Age Of 21.” According to The Statesman, “One of two Texas court cases that sought to expand handgun rights to 18- to 20-year-olds has been thrown out by a federal judge in Lubbock. U.S. District Judge Samuel Cummings, in a 17-page ruling issued Thursday, dismissed a challenge to a 32-year-old federal law barring handgun sales by licensed gun dealers to people under the age of 21. [...] The lawsuit was one of two filed about a year ago by the National Rifle Association and plaintiffs who were between the ages of 18 and 21. Each wanted to buy a handgun for self-protection, insisting that under other laws, including those relating to military service, people are considered adults at age 18.” [The Statesman, [9/30/11](#)]

- **The Ban On Handgun Sales To People Under 21 Was Upheld By The U.S. Court Of Appeals.** According to Bloomberg Business, “A U.S. law that prohibits federally licensed dealers from selling handguns to buyers under the age of 21 was upheld by an appeals court in a lawsuit brought by the National Rifle Association. The NRA sued the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in 2010 on claims the federal ban violated the constitutional rights of more than 11,000 NRA members who were 18 and older, though still younger than the federal minimum. Government lawyers convinced a U.S. judge in Lubbock, Texas, that the ban didn’t violate younger NRA members’ Second Amendment right to bear arms or Fifth Amendment guarantee of equal protection. The U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans yesterday agreed in a 41-page revised opinion.” [Bloomberg, [4/30/13](#)]

IN 2011, THE NRA SUED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR REQUIRING THAT “GUN MERCHANTS ALONG THE BORDER WITH MEXICO TO REPORT BULK SALES OF CERTAIN SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLES;” THE LAWSUIT WAS REJECTED

In 2011, The NRA Sued The Federal Government Over A Requirement That “Gun Merchants Along The Border With Mexico To Report Bulk Sales Of Certain Semiautomatic Rifles.” According to the New York Times, “The National Rifle Association filed a lawsuit on Wednesday challenging a new federal regulation requiring gun merchants along the border with Mexico to report bulk sales of certain semiautomatic rifles, contending that the Obama administration exceeded its powers by imposing the rule last month without Congressional permission. The N.R.A. is bringing the lawsuit in the name of two firearms dealers in Arizona. [...] The rule requires licensed firearms dealers in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas to report whenever someone buys more than one weapon like a variant of the AK-47 assault weapon within five days. The rule covers any semiautomatic rifle capable of accepting a detachable magazine and ammunition larger than .22 caliber. The rule is meant to make it harder for Mexican drug cartels to obtain military-style weapons and smuggle them to Mexico, where they are illegal to sell to consumers. American weapons — often bought by ‘straw buyers’ who have a right to buy them for themselves — have been flooding across the Southwest border for years, fueling drug violence in Mexico.” [New York Times, [8/3/11](#)]

- **A Federal Appeals Court Rejected The NRA’s Lawsuit Over Gun Sale Regulations Along The Mexican Border.** According to CNN, “Obama administration efforts to monitor gun trafficking of certain semi-automatic firearms along the U.S. border into Mexico received court approval on Friday amid complaints from gun dealers it violated their rights. A federal appeals court in Washington said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms can require the four southern border states -- California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas-- to report multiple sales of certain guns. The three-judge panel said those 2011 special requirements did not ‘come close’ to violating a law prohibiting a national firearm registry, any possibility of which is a major fear of gun rights activists.” [CNN.com, [5/31/13](#)]

THE NRA WAS THE “MAIN OPPONENT” TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMART GUNS WHICH WOULD PREVENT ANYONE OTHER THAN THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A GUN FROM FIRING IT

The NRA Was “The Main Opponent” Of The Development Of Smart Gun Technology – Which Would Prevent Anyone Other Than The Owner Of A Gun From Firing It. According to USA Today, “There is a battle going on in the U.S. over the development and sale of so-called ‘smart guns’ — handguns that proponents say should improve safety and lower suicide rates because they can only be fired by owners. Gun-store owners say there is no market for such guns and that they have never had a single customer inquiry. In addition, some owners say, smart guns are too expensive, or the technology does not exist. [...] The main opponent is the National Rifle Association. But it will not speak. The Springfield (Mo.) News-

Leader left six messages on the phone and with a secretary over two weeks for the one spokesman designated to talk to the media, Andrew Arulanandam, in the national office in Virginia.” [USA Today, [8/3/14](#)]

Senior VP For Research At The New Jersey Institute Of Technology, Donald Sebastian, Who Has Researched Smart Guns Since 1999, Said “The NRA Is The Leading Obstacle To Bringing A Smart Gun To Market.” According to USA Today, “Donald Sebastian has a doctorate in chemical engineering and is the senior vice president for research at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He has researched smart-gun technology since 1999. The NRA is the leading obstacle to bringing a smart gun to market, he says. And some would say, according to Sebastian, the NRA has legitimate concerns about a 2002 New Jersey law.” [USA Today, [8/3/14](#)]

New York Times Headline: “Smart’ Firearm Draws Wrath Of The Gun Lobby.” [New York Times, [4/27/14](#)]

The NRA Said The Push For Smart Guns Was Meant To Create A Gun That Could Be Turned Off Remotely And To Raise The Price Of Handguns. According to Politico, “Gun rights groups, including the National Rifle Association, are not against funding research for smart guns or putting them on shelves. But the NRA does oppose any law that would prohibit people from buying a gun that doesn’t have personalized technology. And its website casts the motives for a mandate in ominous terms: ‘as a way to prohibit the manufacture of traditional handguns, raise the price of handguns that would be allowed to be sold and, presumably, to imbed into handguns a device that would allow guns to be disabled remotely.’” [Politico, [4/28/16](#)]

President Obama Pledged To Make Smart Guns A Priority

Politico: President Obama Was “Readying A Big Push For So-Called Smart Gun Technology – An Initiative That The Gun Lobby... Is Already Mobilizing Against.” According to Politico, “President Barack Obama is opening a new front in the gun control debate, readying a big push for so-called smart gun technology — an initiative that the gun lobby and law enforcement rank and file is already mobilizing against. As early as Friday, Obama is set to formally release findings from the Defense, Justice and Homeland Security Departments on ways to spur the development of guns that can be fired only by their owner, according to industry and gun control sources. Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett is slated to preview the announcement for stakeholders on Thursday afternoon.” [Politico, [4/28/16](#)]

Politico: Smart Guns “Could Cut Down On The Roughly 500 Deaths Each Year From Accidental Shootings, Especially By Kids” And The 1 In 10 Police Deaths Caused By Officers Being Shot By Their Own Guns. According to Politico, “It wouldn’t prevent most mass shootings, gun crimes or suicides — currently the biggest driver of gun deaths. However, they could cut down on the roughly 500 deaths each year from accidental shootings, especially by kids. Advocates also point to findings that most youth suicides are committed with a parents’ weapon, and instances where officers’ own guns are stolen in a scuffle and used to shoot them cause about 1 in 10 police deaths.” [Politico, [4/28/16](#)]

THE NRA FOUGHT TO WEAKEN ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING LAWS

USA Today Headline: “NRA Actively Worked To Weaken Gun Law Enforcement.” [USA Today, [2/8/13](#)]

“Lobbying Records And Interviews” Show The NRA “Has Worked Steadily To Weaken Existing Gun Laws And The Federal Agency Charged With Enforcing Them.” According to USA Today, “The National Rifle Association says proposals such as universal background checks for gun buyers won’t work and the nation must enforce the laws it has. But lobbying records and interviews show the organization has worked steadily to weaken existing gun laws and the federal agency charged with enforcing them.” [USA Today, [2/8/13](#)]

“The NRA Has Repeatedly Supported Legislation To Weaken Several Of The Nation’s Gun Laws And Opposed Any Attempt To Boost The Ability” Of The ATF “To Enforce Current Laws.” According to USA Today, “A review of congressional legislative records, federal lobbying disclosure forms, as well as interviews with former ATF agents, shows how the NRA has repeatedly supported legislation to weaken several of the nation’s gun laws and opposed any attempt to boost the ability of the Bureau of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to enforce current laws.” [USA Today, [2/8/13](#)]

New York Times Editorial: “The Hypocrisy Of The N.R.A.’S Argument That The Problem Is Weak Enforcement Is Exposed By Its Efforts Over The Years To Undercut What Enforcement There Is.” According to an editorial by New

York Times editorial board member Dorothy Samuels, “The hypocrisy of the N.R.A.’s argument that the problem is weak enforcement is exposed by its efforts over the years to undercut what enforcement there is. It has tried mightily to ensure that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lacks the leadership, resources and legal authority to do its job properly. Restrictions enacted at the gun lobby’s behest make it exceedingly hard to identify dealers who falsify sales records, for example, and bar the bureau from putting gun-sale records into a central database for speedy tracing of weapons used in crimes.” [Dorothy Samuels Editorial – New York Times, [1/19/13](#)]

NRA Worked To Weaken The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

New York Times Editorial: “Restrictions Enacted At The Gun Lobby’s Behest Make It Exceedingly Hard To Identify Dealers Who Falsify Sales Records,” And “Bar” The ATF From Putting Gun-Sale Records Into A Database To Trace Weapons Used In Crimes. According to an editorial by New York Times editorial board member Dorothy Samuels, “The hypocrisy of the N.R.A.’s argument that the problem is weak enforcement is exposed by its efforts over the years to undercut what enforcement there is. It has tried mightily to ensure that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lacks the leadership, resources and legal authority to do its job properly. Restrictions enacted at the gun lobby’s behest make it exceedingly hard to identify dealers who falsify sales records, for example, and bar the bureau from putting gun-sale records into a central database for speedy tracing of weapons used in crimes.” [Dorothy Samuels Editorial – New York Times, [1/19/13](#)]

Unlike Other Government Agencies, “The ATF Must Contend With A Powerful Lobby That Watches Its Every Move And Fights Its Attempts To Gain Resources And Regulatory Power.” According to the Washington Post, “The ATF is supposed to regulate the gun industry, but many within the bureau say it is the industry that dominates the agency. Unlike the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Secret Service or the U.S. Marshals, the ATF must contend with a powerful lobby that watches its every move and fights its attempts to gain resources and regulatory power.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

“The ATF Is Supposed To Regulate The Gun Industry, But Many Within The Bureau Say It Is The Industry That Dominates The Agency.” According to the Washington Post, “The ATF is supposed to regulate the gun industry, but many within the bureau say it is the industry that dominates the agency. Unlike the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Secret Service or the U.S. Marshals, the ATF must contend with a powerful lobby that watches its every move and fights its attempts to gain resources and regulatory power.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

Former ATF Assistant Director For Enforcement Lew Raden: “It’s A Lot Easier To Close A Restaurant Kitchen Than A Gun Store.” According to the Washington Post, “When inspectors document persistent or severe violations, they can issue warning letters or hold warning conferences with licensees. When problems are critical, they can move to take away the license. Dealers, however, can drag out the process for years and sell guns the entire time, The Post found. On average, the agency revokes or denies renewal of 110 licenses annually, records show. Another 160 licenses on average are surrendered by dealers threatened with revocation. Overall, that’s less than one-half of 1 percent of licensed dealers. Criminal prosecutions of corrupt dealers are even more rare, about 15 in a typical year, records show. Simply opening an investigation of a gun dealer requires clearing high bureaucratic hurdles, including the writing of a detailed proposal that must be approved by supervisory agents. ‘It’s a lot easier to close a restaurant kitchen than a gun store,’ said Lew Raden, the former ATF assistant director for enforcement.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

THE NRA “CHOKED OFF MONEY” FOR “BASIC” RESEARCH ON GUN SAFETY

New York Times: Research On “Basic” Questions On Gun Safety Has Not Been Done Because “The National Rifle Association Has All But Choked Off Money For Such Work.” According to The New York Times, “In the wake of the shootings in Tucson, the familiar questions inevitably resurfaced: Are communities where more people carry guns safer or less safe? Does the availability of high-capacity magazines increase deaths? Do more rigorous background checks make a difference? The reality is that even these and other basic questions cannot be fully answered, because not enough research has been done. And there is a reason for that. Scientists in the field and former officials with the government agency that used to finance the great bulk of this research say the influence of the National Rifle Association has all but choked off money for such work.” [New York Times, [1/25/11](#)]

“The CDC Conducted Gun Violence Research In The 1980s And 1990s, But It Abruptly Ended In 1996” When The NRA Lobbied Congress To Cut Its Budget “The Exact Amount It Had Allocated To Gun Violence Research.”

According to ABC News, “‘Good research was being done by Art [Kellermann] and by us and by others on what the risk factors were for firearm violence, and how it might be prevented and so forth,’ said Dr. Garen Wintemute, an emergency room physician and leader on gun violence research at the University of California at Davis. ‘I won't say it halted, but it decreased substantially in scale.’ The CDC conducted gun violence research in the 1980s and 1990s, but it abruptly ended in 1996 when the National Rifle Association lobbied Congress to cut the CDC's budget the exact amount it had allocated to gun violence research.” [ABC News, [4/9/13](#)]

“At First, The House Tried To Close Down The CDC's Entire, \$46 Million National Center For Injury Prevention” But Was Unsuccessful. According to the Huffington Post, “Looking back, nearly 20 years later, Jay Dickey is apologetic. He is gone from Congress, giving him space to reflect on his namesake amendment that, to this day, continues to define the rigid politics of gun policy. [...] At first, the House tried to close down the CDC's entire, \$46 million National Center for Injury Prevention. When that failed, Dickey stepped in with an alternative: strip \$2.6 million that the agency had spent on gun studies that year. The money would eventually be re-appropriated for studies unrelated to guns. But the far more damaging inclusion was language that stated, ‘None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.’” [Huffington Post, [10/6/15](#)]

Chris Cox On CDC Research On Guns: “They Were Promoting The Idea That Gun Ownership Was A Disease That Needed To Be Eradicated.” According to The New York Times, “We’ve been stopped from answering the basic questions,” said Mark Rosenberg, former director of the National Center for Injury Control and Prevention, part of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which was for about a decade the leading source of financing for firearms research. Chris Cox, the N.R.A.’s chief lobbyist, said his group had not tried to squelch genuine scientific inquiries, just politically slanted ones. ‘Our concern is not with legitimate medical science,’ Mr. Cox said. ‘Our concern is they were promoting the idea that gun ownership was a disease that needed to be eradicated.’” [New York Times, [1/25/11](#)]

Rep. Jay Dickey “Stepped In” With An Alternative, To Strip The CDC Of Some Funds And Prohibit Any CDC Funding From Being “Used To Advocate Or Promote Gun Control.” According to the Huffington Post, “Looking back, nearly 20 years later, Jay Dickey is apologetic. He is gone from Congress, giving him space to reflect on his namesake amendment that, to this day, continues to define the rigid politics of gun policy. [...] At first, the House tried to close down the CDC's entire, \$46 million National Center for Injury Prevention. When that failed, Dickey stepped in with an alternative: strip \$2.6 million that the agency had spent on gun studies that year. The money would eventually be re-appropriated for studies unrelated to guns. But the far more damaging inclusion was language that stated, ‘None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.’” [Huffington Post, [10/6/15](#)]

- **Dickey Later Said He Submitted The Amendment To Restrict CDC Research On Gun Violence Because He “Served As The NRA’s Point Person In Congress.”** According to an op-ed by former Rep. Jay Dickey and president of the Task Force for Global Health and former director of the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Mark Rosenberg, for The Washington Post, “One of us served as the NRA’s point person in Congress and submitted an amendment to an appropriations bill that removed \$2.6 million from the CDC’s budget, the amount the agency’s injury center had spent on firearms-related research the previous year. This amendment, together with a stipulation that “None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control,” sent a chilling message. Since the legislation passed in 1996, the United States has spent about \$240 million a year on traffic safety research, but there has been almost no publicly funded research on firearm injuries.” [Jay Dickey and Mark Rosenberg – Washington Post, [7/27/12](#)]

Rep. Jay Dickey Said He Regretted Introducing The Amendment That Blocked Gun Violence Research

Dickey Said He Regretted Helping To Pass A Restriction Of Federal Funding For Gun Violence Research: “I Wish We Had Started The Proper Research And Kept It Going All This Time.” According to the Huffington Post, “Looking back, nearly 20 years later, Jay Dickey is apologetic. He is gone from Congress, giving him space to reflect on his namesake amendment that, to this day, continues to define the rigid politics of gun policy. When he helped pass a restriction of federal funding for gun violence research in 1996, the goal wasn't to be so suffocating, he insisted. But the measure was just that, dampening federal research for years and discouraging researchers from entering the field. Now, as mass shootings pile up,

including last week's killing of nine at a community college in Oregon, Dickey admitted to carrying a sense of responsibility for progress not made. 'I wish we had started the proper research and kept it going all this time,' Dickey, an Arkansas Republican, told the Huffington Post in an interview. 'I have regrets.'" [Huffington Post, [10/6/15](#)]

Dickey And Task Force For Global Health President Mark Rosenberg: "As a Consequence" Of The Dickey Amendment, "U.S. Scientists Cannot Answer The Most Basic Question: What Works To Prevent Firearm Injuries?"

According to an op-ed by former Rep. Jay Dickey and president of the Task Force for Global Health and former director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Mark Rosenberg, for The Washington Post, "As a consequence, U.S. scientists cannot answer the most basic question: What works to prevent firearm injuries? We don't know whether having more citizens carry guns would decrease or increase firearm deaths; or whether firearm registration and licensing would make inner-city residents safer or expose them to greater harm. We don't know whether a ban on assault weapons or large-capacity magazines, or limiting access to ammunition, would have saved lives in Aurora or would make it riskier for people to go to a movie. And we don't know how to effectively restrict access to firearms by those with serious mental illness." [Jay Dickey and Mark Rosenberg – Washington Post, [7/27/12](#)]

Dickey And Rosenberg: "What We Do Know Is That Firearm Injuries Will Continue To Claim Far Too Many Lives At Home, At School, At Work And At The Movies Until We Start Asking And Answering The Hard Questions."

According to an op-ed by former Rep. Jay Dickey and president of the Task Force for Global Health and former director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Mark Rosenberg, for The Washington Post, "What we do know is that firearm injuries will continue to claim far too many lives at home, at school, at work and at the movies until we start asking and answering the hard questions. "Such violence, such evil is senseless," President Obama said last week. What is truly senseless is to decry these deaths as senseless when the tools exist to understand causes and to prevent these deadly effects." [Jay Dickey and Mark Rosenberg – Washington Post, [7/27/12](#)]

Dickey And Rosenberg: "We Are In Strong Agreement Now That Scientific Research Should Be Conducted Into Preventing Firearm Injuries" Firearm Deaths Can Be Prevented "Without Encroaching On The Rights Of Legitimate Gun Owners."

According to an op-ed by former Rep. Jay Dickey and president of the Task Force for Global Health and former director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Mark Rosenberg, for The Washington Post, "We were on opposite sides of the heated battle 16 years ago, but we are in strong agreement now that scientific research should be conducted into preventing firearm injuries and that ways to prevent firearm deaths can be found without encroaching on the rights of legitimate gun owners. The same evidence-based approach that is saving millions of lives from motor-vehicle crashes, as well as from smoking, cancer and HIV/AIDS, can help reduce the toll of deaths and injuries from gun violence." [Jay Dickey and Mark Rosenberg – Washington Post, [7/27/12](#)]

Researchers Said The Ban On CDC Research Has Caused Lasting Damage To Research On Gun Safety And Injury Prevention

Because Of A Clash Between Scientists And The N.R.A, "The Amount Of Money Available Today For Studying The Impact Of Firearms Is A Fraction Of What It Was In The Mid-1990s." According to The New York Times, "The amount of money available today for studying the impact of firearms is a fraction of what it was in the mid-1990s, and the number of scientists toiling in the field has dwindled to just a handful as a result, researchers say. The dearth of money can be traced in large measure to a clash between public health scientists and the N.R.A. in the mid-1990s. At the time, Dr. Rosenberg and others at the C.D.C. were becoming increasingly assertive about the importance of studying gun-related injuries and deaths as a public health phenomenon, financing studies that found, for example, having a gun in the house, rather than conferring protection, significantly increased the risk of homicide by a family member or intimate acquaintance." [New York Times, [1/25/11](#)]

Former Director Of The CDC's National Center For Injury Control And Prevention Mark Rosenberg: "We've Been Stopped From Answering The Basic Questions."

According to The New York Times, "Scientists in the field and former officials with the government agency that used to finance the great bulk of this research say the influence of the National Rifle [sic] Association has all but choked off money for such work. We've been stopped from answering the basic questions," said Mark Rosenberg, former director of the National Center for Injury Control and Prevention, part of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which was for about a decade the leading source of financing for firearms research." [New York Times, [1/25/11](#)]

ABC News Headline: "CDC Ban On Gun Research Caused Lasting Damage." [ABC News, [4/9/13](#)]

The CDC Ban On Gun Research “Also Helped Make Gun-Related Questions Controversial Even For Studies Not Funded By The Government, And It Will Take Years To Restore Available Data To What It Once Was.” According to ABC News, “President Obama may have ended the 17-year ban on gun violence research at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but even if Congress restores research funds, experts say the damage runs deeper than funding cuts. Since the 1996 ban, many of the leading researchers of the 1980s and 1990s have moved on to other specialties, and some said they've even discouraged students from specializing in gun violence research because the work doesn't pay. The ban also helped make gun-related questions controversial even for studies not funded by the government, and it will take years to restore available data to what it once was.” [ABC News, [4/9/13](#)]

Emergency Room Physician And “Leader On Gun Violence Research,” Dr. Garen Wintemute, “Said The Labor Force Available To Dive Back Into Gun Violence Research Is Virtually Nonexistent.” According to ABC News, “As a result of researchers leaving his field and students steering clear of it because of funding concerns, Wintemute said the labor force available to dive back into gun violence research is virtually nonexistent. He estimated that only 12 or 15 people in the whole country are still researching gun violence because only a handful of nonprofits are willing to fund it. ‘I don't think there's anyone at the CDC who has done significant work in this area in a decade,’ he said.” [ABC News, [4/9/13](#)]

“Wintemute Said It’s Become A Tough Field To Enter Because Researchers Worry About Death Threats.” According to ABC News, “Wintemute said it’s become a tough field to enter because researchers worry about death threats, adding that he himself was threatened by gun manufacturer Bruce Jennings, who founded B.L. Jennings Firearms and Bryco Arms in California. It has since gone bankrupt. ‘The work is very controversial,’ he said. ‘There are some very angry people out there.’” [ABC News, [4/9/13](#)]

Firearms Researchers Said The Prohibition On Gun Research “Is Striking,” Because “No Other Field Of Inquiry Is Singled Out In This Way.” According to The New York Times, “The prohibition is striking, firearms researchers say, because there are already regulations that bar the use of C.D.C. money for lobbying for or against legislation. No other field of inquiry is singled out in this way. In the end, researchers said, even though it is murky what exactly is allowed under this provision and what is not, the upshot is clear inside the centers: the agency should tread in this area only at its own peril.” [New York Times, [1/25/11](#)]

“Professor Of Pediatrics And Epidemiology At University Of Washington At Seattle Children's Hospital, Dr. Fred Rivara, “Personally Saw The Chilling Effects Of The NRA’s Lobbying Arm” On Gun Violence Research. According to Public Radio International, “Dr. Fred Rivara, a professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology at the University of Washington at Seattle Children's Hospital, has been involved with injury research for 30 years. He was part of a team that researched gun violence back in the 1990s and personally saw the chilling effects of the NRA’s lobbying arm. Rivara says that the NRA accused the CDC of trying to use science to promote gun control. ‘As a result of that, many, many people stopped doing gun research, [and] the number of publications on firearm violence decreased dramatically,’ he told The Takeaway in April. ‘It was really chilling in terms of our ability to conduct research on this very important problem.’” [Public Radio International, [7/2/15](#)]

In 2015 The Ban On The CDC Conducting Gun Violence Research Was Extended

In 2015 The House Appropriations Committee “Quietly Rejected An Amendment That Would Have Allowed The Centers For Disease Control And Prevention To Study The Underlying Causes Of Gun Violence.” According to Business Insider, “In the immediate aftermath of the massacre in Charleston, South Carolina, the US House of Representatives Appropriations Committee quietly rejected an amendment that would have allowed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the underlying causes of gun violence. A congressional ban on gun violence research backed by the National Rifle Association (NRA) has been extended in the aftermath of the Charleston church shooting that left 9 people dead. As Public Radio International (PRI) reported recently, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee voted to reject an amendment last month that would have allowed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to study the relationship between gun ownership and gun violence.” [Business Insider, [7/7/15](#)]

New York Times Editorial: “Truly Vital Information” On Gun Deaths “Is Kept Largely From The Public,” Because Of The “Gun Lobby.” According to an editorial by The New York Times, “The tally by the Violence Policy Center, a gun safety group, is necessarily incomplete because the gun lobby has been so successful in persuading gullible state and national legislators that concealed carry is essential to public safety, thus blocking the extensive data collection that should be

mandatory for an obvious and severe public health problem. For that reason, the center has been forced to rely largely on news accounts and limited data in 38 states and the District of Columbia. More complete research, unimpeded by the gun lobby, would undoubtedly uncover a higher death toll. But this truly vital information is kept largely from the public. A Gallup poll this month found 56 percent of Americans said the nation would be safer if more people carried concealed weapons.” [Editorial – New York Times, [10/26/15](#)]

NRA MADE IT DIFFICULT TO TRACK GUNS USED IN CRIMES AND PUSHED FOR LAWS THAT PERMITTED DEALERS TO NOT TAKE INVENTORY OF THEIR GUNS

“Under Pressure From The Gun Lobby,” Congress Passed A Law That “Removed From The Public Record A Government Database That Traces Guns Recovered In Crimes Back To The Dealers.” According to The Washington Post, “Under the law, investigators cannot reveal federal firearms tracing information that shows how often a dealer sells guns that end up seized in crimes. The law effectively shields retailers from lawsuits, academic study and public scrutiny. It also keeps the spotlight off the relationship between rogue gun dealers and the black market in firearms. Such information used to be available under a simple Freedom of Information Act request. But seven years ago, under pressure from the gun lobby, Congress blacked out the information by passing the so-called Tiahrt amendment, named for Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.). The law removed from the public record a government database that traces guns recovered in crimes back to the dealers.” [Washington Post, [10/24/10](#)]

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“The Law Effectively Shields Retailers From Lawsuits, Academic Study And Public Scrutiny” And “Keeps The Spotlight Off The Relationship Between Rogue Gun Dealers And The Black Market In Firearms.” According to The Washington Post, Under the law, investigators cannot reveal federal firearms tracing information that shows how often a dealer sells guns that end up seized in crimes. The law effectively shields retailers from lawsuits, academic study and public scrutiny. It also keeps the spotlight off the relationship between rogue gun dealers and the black market in firearms. Such information used to be available under a simple Freedom of Information Act request. But seven years ago, under pressure from the gun lobby, Congress blacked out the information by passing the so-called Tiahrt amendment, named for Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.). The law removed from the public record a government database that traces guns recovered in crimes back to the dealers.” [Washington Post, [10/24/10](#)]

“One Of The ATF's Chief Concerns Is Missing Guns,” But “Dealers By Law Do Not Have To Take Inventory”

“One Of The ATF's Chief Concerns Is Missing Guns,” But “Dealers By Law Do Not Have To Take Inventory.” According to the Washington Post, Guns that stores cannot account for cannot be traced to buyers and are a red flag for potential off-the-books dealing. Nationwide, dealers lose track of an enormous number of guns. Since 2005, 3,847 inspections have documented 113,642 guns that cannot be found. (The Bushmaster rifle used in the D.C. sniper killings in 2002 had gone missing from a gun store in Tacoma, Wash.) The process is complicated because dealers by law do not have to take inventory. In a 2003 provision authored by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.), Congress prohibited the ATF from requiring dealers to do inventories. As a result, ATF inspectors sometimes have to spend days or weeks poring through a dealer's paperwork and physically matching it to the guns on hand.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

In 2000 Inspections Of Gun Sales “Detected Serious Problems,” Leading The ATF To Propose A Rule “Requiring Dealers To Conduct Regular Inventories To Detect Lost Or Stolen Guns,” But It Was Opposed By The Gun Industry. According to the Washington Post, “The Clinton administration seized on the findings to encourage police to request a trace on every gun they confiscated. In 2000, Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers, who oversaw the ATF,

announced ‘intensive inspections’ of the 1 percent - 1,012 gun stores. The inspections detected serious problems. Nearly half of the dealers could not account for all of their guns, for a total of 13,271 missing firearms. More than half were out of compliance with record-keeping. And they had made nearly 700 sales to potential traffickers or prohibited people. More than 450 dealers were sanctioned, and 20 were referred for license revocation. The ATF proposed tougher rules, such as requiring dealers to conduct regular inventories to detect lost or stolen guns. The gun industry opposed the rule, calling it a step toward a national registry of gun ownership.” [Washington Post, [10/24/10](#)]

In 2003 “The Gun Lobby Moved” To Take Trace Data “Out Of Public Circulation Altogether.” According to the Washington Post, “Such information used to be available under a simple Freedom of Information Act request. But seven years ago, under pressure from the gun lobby, Congress blacked out the information by passing the so-called Tiahrt amendment, named for Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.). The law removed from the public record a government database that traces guns recovered in crimes back to the dealers. [...] Next, the gun lobby moved to take the trace data out of public circulation altogether. In July 2003, Tiahrt introduced his amendment, saying, ‘I wanted to make sure I was fulfilling the needs of my friends who are firearms dealers.’” [Washington Post, [10/24/10](#)]

A 2003 Provision Authored By Former Rep. Todd Tiahrt “Prohibited The ATF From Requiring Dealers To Do Inventories.” According to the Washington Post, Guns that stores cannot account for cannot be traced to buyers and are a red flag for potential off-the-books dealing. Nationwide, dealers lose track of an enormous number of guns. Since 2005, 3,847 inspections have documented 113,642 guns that cannot be found. (The Bushmaster rifle used in the D.C. sniper killings in 2002 had gone missing from a gun store in Tacoma, Wash.) The process is complicated because dealers by law do not have to take inventory. In a 2003 provision authored by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.), Congress prohibited the ATF from requiring dealers to do inventories. As a result, ATF inspectors sometimes have to spend days or weeks poring through a dealer's paperwork and physically matching it to the guns on hand.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

- **Tiahrt Received More Than \$77,000 From The NRA, Which Was His 6th Largest Donor During His Congressional Career.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the National Rifle Association, was Todd Tiahrt’s 6th biggest donor and he received \$77, 350 from the organization from his election in 1994, to 2010. [OpenSecrets.org, accessed [11/23/15](#)]

The Tiahrt Amendments “Limited The A.T.F.’S Ability To Share Tracing Information On Firearms Linked To Crimes With Local And State Law Enforcement Agencies And With The Public.” According to The New York Times, “The so-called Tiahrt amendments — named for Todd Tiahrt, a former Republican congressman from Kansas, and first attached as riders to appropriations bills in 2003 and 2004 — limited the A.T.F.’s ability to share tracing information on firearms linked to crimes with local and state law enforcement agencies and with the public. Those restrictions have been loosened in subsequent versions of the amendments. But under the most recent Tiahrt amendment, adopted in 2010, the A.T.F. still cannot release anything but aggregate data to the public. The amendment still prohibits the bureau from using tracing data in some legal proceedings to suspend or revoke a dealer’s license, and it requires that records of background checks of gun buyers be destroyed within 24 hours of approval. Advocates of tighter regulation say this makes it harder to identify dealers who falsify records or buyers who make ‘straw’ purchases for others.” [New York Times, [12/25/12](#)]

“Under The Most Recent Tiahrt Amendment, Adopted In 2010, The A.T.F. Still Cannot Release Anything But Aggregate Data To The Public.” According to The New York Times, “But under the most recent Tiahrt amendment, adopted in 2010, the A.T.F. still cannot release anything but aggregate data to the public. The amendment still prohibits the bureau from using tracing data in some legal proceedings to suspend or revoke a dealer’s license, and it requires that records of background checks of gun buyers be destroyed within 24 hours of approval. Advocates of tighter regulation say this makes it harder to identify dealers who falsify records or buyers who make ‘straw’ purchases for others.” [New York Times, [12/25/12](#)]

Inventory And Tracing Data Helped Law Enforcement Keep Track Of Stolen Guns, Gun Tracing Currently “Is An Antiquated, Laborious Process”

Director Of The Police Executive Research Forum, Chuck Wexler: “The Tracing Data, Which Is Now Secret, Helped Us See The Big Picture Of Where Guns Are Coming From.” According to The Washington Post, “‘It was extraordinary, and the most offensive thing you can think of,’ said Chuck Wexler, director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a nonprofit group for police chiefs. ‘The tracing data, which is now secret, helped us see the big picture of where guns are coming from.’ The amendment also kept the data from being used by cities and interest groups to sue the firearms

industry, an avenue of attack modeled after the lawsuits against tobacco companies. ‘They were trying to drive a stake through the heart of the [gun] industry,’ said Lawrence Keane, general counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade group for firearms dealers and makers. ‘It took an act of Congress to stop the litigation.’ [Washington Post, [10/24/10](#)]

“Nationwide, Dealers Lose Track Of An Enormous Number Of Guns. Since 2005, 3,847 Inspections Have Documented 113,642 Guns That Cannot Be Found.” According to the Washington Post, “Guns that stores cannot account for cannot be traced to buyers and are a red flag for potential off-the-books dealing. Nationwide, dealers lose track of an enormous number of guns. Since 2005, 3,847 inspections have documented 113,642 guns that cannot be found. (The Bushmaster rifle used in the D.C. sniper killings in 2002 had gone missing from a gun store in Tacoma, Wash.) The process is complicated because dealers by law do not have to take inventory. In a 2003 provision authored by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.), Congress prohibited the ATF from requiring dealers to do inventories. As a result, ATF inspectors sometimes have to spend days or weeks poring through a dealer's paperwork and physically matching it to the guns on hand.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

“By Law, The ATF Cannot Require Dealers To Conduct A Physical Inventory To Determine Whether Any Guns Have Been Lost Or Stolen.” According to the Washington Post, “For decades, the National Rifle Association has lobbied successfully to block all attempts at such computerization, arguing against any national registry of firearm ownership. [...] Concerns about government regulation of gun ownership have limited the resources available to the ATF, led to strict regulatory restrictions and left the agency without leadership, according to interviews with dozens of former and current ATF officials and examination of thousands of pages of internal documents. The agency still has about the same number of agents it had nearly four decades ago: 2,500. The firearms bureau inspects only a fraction of the nation's 60,000 retail gun dealers, taking as much as eight years between visits to stores. By law, the ATF cannot require dealers to conduct a physical inventory to determine whether any guns have been lost or stolen.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

Former ATF Official James Zammillo: “An Annual Inventory Is Part Of Every Business... There Is A Clear Need For It For Public Safety, Based On The Number Of Missing Guns.” According to the Washington Post, “‘An annual inventory is part of every business,’ said [former ATF official James] Zammillo, who retired this year after four decades with the ATF. ‘Congress said we forbid you to require a business to take an inventory. ‘There is a clear need for it for public safety, based on the number of missing guns.’ The NRA said requiring inventories would impose a huge cost on the industry and raise prices for consumers.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

“Advocates Of Tighter Regulation Say This Makes It Harder To Identify Dealers Who Falsify Records Or Buyers Who Make ‘Straw’ Purchases For Others.” According to The New York Times, “But under the most recent Tiahrt amendment, adopted in 2010, the A.T.F. still cannot release anything but aggregate data to the public. The amendment still prohibits the bureau from using tracing data in some legal proceedings to suspend or revoke a dealer's license, and it requires that records of background checks of gun buyers be destroyed within 24 hours of approval. Advocates of tighter regulation say this makes it harder to identify dealers who falsify records or buyers who make ‘straw’ purchases for others.” [New York Times, [12/25/12](#)]

When Law Enforcement Recovers A Gun, Workers At The National Tracing Center Have To Make A “Series Of Phone Calls,” Asking The Manufacturer, Wholesaler And Dealer “To Search Their Files To Identify The Buyer.” According to The New York Times, “When law enforcement officers recover a gun and serial number, workers at the bureau's National Tracing Center here — a windowless warehouse-style building on a narrow road outside town — begin making their way through a series of phone calls, asking first the manufacturer, then the wholesaler and finally the dealer to search their files to identify the buyer of the firearm. About a third of the time, the process involves digging through records sent in by companies that have closed, in many cases searching by hand through cardboard boxes filled with computer printouts, hand-scrawled index cards or even water-stained sheets of paper.” [New York Times, [12/25/12](#)]

“In Contrast With Such State-Of-The-Art, 21st-Century Crime-Fighting Techniques As DNA Matching And Digital Fingerprint Analysis, Gun Tracing Is An Antiquated, Laborious Process Done Mostly By Hand.” According to the Washington Post, “In contrast with such state-of-the-art, 21st-century crime-fighting techniques as DNA matching and digital fingerprint analysis, gun tracing is an antiquated, laborious process done mostly by hand. The government is prohibited from putting gun ownership records into an easily accessible format, such as a searchable computer database.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

“For Decades,” The NRA Has “Lobbied Successfully To Block All Attempts” At Computerization Of Any Gun Sale Records; A Dealer Can Sell One Person Dozens Of Semiautomatic Rifles “And Not Be Required To Report The Sales”

“The Government Is Prohibited From Putting Gun Ownership Records Into An Easily Accessible Format, Such As A Searchable Computer Database.” According to the Washington Post, “In contrast with such state-of-the-art, 21st-century crime-fighting techniques as DNA matching and digital fingerprint analysis, gun tracing is an antiquated, laborious process done mostly by hand. The government is prohibited from putting gun ownership records into an easily accessible format, such as a searchable computer database.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

“For Decades, The National Rifle Association Has Lobbied Successfully To Block All Attempts At Such Computerization, Arguing Against Any National Registry Of Firearm Ownership.” According to the Washington Post, “For decades, the National Rifle Association has lobbied successfully to block all attempts at such computerization, arguing against any national registry of firearm ownership. “Those who wonder what motivates American gun owners should understand that perhaps only one word in the English language so boils their blood as “registration,” and that word is “confiscation,”” according to an NRA fact sheet.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

To Spot Possible Gun Trafficking, Dealers Are Required To Report Sales Of More Than One Handgun Within Five Days, But The Gun Lobby Opposed A Similar Requirement For Rifles Or Shotguns. According to the Washington Post, “Dealers are also required to report to the ATF when someone buys more than one handgun from them within five consecutive business days, a red flag for potential trafficking. The gun lobby has opposed a similar requirement for rifles and shotguns - a dealer can sell the same purchaser dozens of semiautomatic rifles, such as AK-47s, and not be required to report the sales. ‘They’re less likely to be used in crime,’ said John C. Frazier, director of the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

“A Dealer Can Sell The Same Purchaser Dozens Of Semiautomatic Rifles, Such As AK-47s, And Not Be Required To Report The Sales.” According to the Washington Post, “Dealers are also required to report to the ATF when someone buys more than one handgun from them within five consecutive business days, a red flag for potential trafficking. The gun lobby has opposed a similar requirement for rifles and shotguns - a dealer can sell the same purchaser dozens of semiautomatic rifles, such as AK-47s, and not be required to report the sales. ‘They’re less likely to be used in crime,’ said John C. Frazier, director of the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action.” [Washington Post, [10/26/10](#)]

The NRA Fought Against Laws That Keep America Safe From Terrorists

UNLIKE MOST AMERICANS, THE NRA OPPOSED A BILL THAT WOULD DENY SOMEONE ON THE TERRORISM WATCH LIST THE ABILITY TO BUY A GUN; SENATE DEMOCRATS REVIVED THE BILL AFTER THE PARIS ATTACKS

After The Paris Attacks, Senate Democrats Revived “A Measure To Expand Gun Control Restrictions” For Those On The Terror Watchlist,” Which Faced “Stiff Opposition” From The NRA. According to The Washington Post, “Leading Senate Democrats are reviving a measure to expand gun control restrictions to cover foreign nationals and U.S. citizens who are on the terror watchlist following last weekend’s Paris attacks. The leading advocate of the measure is Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence panel. She wants to prevent anyone on the terror watchlist from buying a firearm or an explosive while traveling in the United States. It’s an effort she picked up from the late New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D), who introduced the measure multiple times while in the Senate. [...] The idea has always faced stiff opposition from the National Rifle Association and lawmakers who share the NRA’s position. The NRA has argued that targeting those on the terror watchlist would unfairly infringe on the rights of U.S. citizens whose names were mistakenly included on the lists.” [Washington Post, [11/20/15](#)]

- **The Bill Would “Allow The Attorney General To Deny The Purchase Or Transfer Of A Firearm Or Explosive To A Known Or Suspected Terrorist.”** According to a press release from Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s office, “The Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2015 would: Allow the attorney general to deny the purchase or transfer of a firearm or explosive to a known or suspected terrorist if the prospective recipient may use the firearm or explosive in connection with terrorism.” [Dianne Feinstein Press Release, [2/24/15](#)]

- **The Proposal Failed To Pass In 2011.** According to U.S. News & World Report, “Anti-gun Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) was not so successful with her amendment to authorize the Attorney General to prohibit the possession of firearms by anyone whose name appears on the FBI's secretive terrorist watch list. Her proposal failed by a vote of 27-18, indicating that a majority on the committee understands the many problems with this idea. Chief among those is that 95 percent of people on the watch list are already prohibited from possessing firearms in the U.S. because they are not citizens or legal residents of the United States. In March, a similar amendment pushed by Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) was rejected by the House Judiciary Committee by a vote of 21-11.” [U.S. News & World Report, [7/21/11](#)]

The NRA And Republicans Opposed The Measure

Washington Post Columnist Dana Milbank: “NRA Chief Wayne LaPierre...And The Rest Of The Gun Lobby Are Fighting For Terrorists' Right To Buy Firearms.” According to an opinion by columnist Dana Milbank for the Washington Post, “By George W. Bush's standard -- you're either with us or against us in the fight against terrorism -- NRA chief Wayne LaPierre should be just a few frequent-flier miles short of a free ticket to Gitmo right about now. Seems he and the rest of the gun lobby are fighting for terrorists' right to buy firearms. The Bush administration urged Congress to pass a law barring people on the terrorist watch list from buying explosives and guns. The gun lobby objected. Now the Obama administration is urging Congress to pass the same legislation, and the gun lobby continues to object.” [Dana Milbank – Washington Post, [5/6/10](#)]

- **The 2015 Senate Proposal Had No Republican Support And The Republican Who Was The Lead Sponsor Of A Similar Bill In The House Said There Was No Interest In His Party To Pass The Measure.** According to The Washington Post, “Thus far, the measure has no Senate Republican support. And in the House, where lawmakers on Thursday passed a bill to ‘pause’ refugee admissions from Syria and Iraq, the lead sponsor of similar legislation says nobody else in his party is very interested in the measure. ‘To be honest with you, I don’t see much enthusiasm on the Republican side,’ lead sponsor Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) said on Thursday, musing that while he intended to push the bill again, he probably wouldn’t before the beginning of the new year. ‘It’s one battle at a time.’” [Washington Post, [11/20/15](#)]

More Than 2,000 Guns Have Been Purchased By Suspected Terrorists In The U.S.

There Were More Than 2,000 Successful Purchases Of Firearms By People On The FBI’s “Consolidated Terrorist Watchlist” Between 2004 And 2014. According to the Washington Post’s Wonkblog, “In the United States, known and suspected terrorists are allowed to purchase firearms under federal law. ‘Membership in a terrorist organization does not prohibit a person from possessing firearms or explosives under current federal law,’ the Government Accountability Office concluded in 2010. The law prohibits felons, fugitives, drug addicts and domestic abusers from purchasing a firearm in the United States. But people on the FBI's consolidated terrorist watchlist — typically placed there when there is ‘reasonable suspicion’ that they are a known or suspected terrorist — can freely purchase handguns or assault-style rifles. And, as the GAO found, a number of them do: Between 2004 and 2014, suspected terrorists attempted to purchase guns from American dealers at least 2,233 times. And in 2,043 of those cases — 91 percent of the time — they succeeded.” [Washington Post, [11/16/15](#)]

2015: Quinnipiac University Poll: 77 Percent Of American Voters Supported “Changing Gun Laws To Ban People On The Government's Terrorist Watch List From Purchasing Guns”

2015: Quinnipiac University Poll: 77 Percent Of American Voters Supported “Changing Gun Laws To Ban People On The Government's Terrorist Watch List From Purchasing Guns.” According to a press release from Quinnipiac University on a Quinnipiac poll, “American voters support 77 - 18 percent changing gun laws to ban people on the government's terrorist watch list from purchasing guns. Support is 73 percent or higher among all party, gender, ethnic, education and age groups.” [Quinnipiac.edu, [12/3/15](#)]

IN 2011 AL QAEDA URGED FOLLOWERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT “AMERICA IS ABSOLUTELY AWASH WITH EASILY OBTAINABLE FIREARMS”

American Born Al Qaeda Spokesman Adam Gadahn Urged Al Qaeda Followers To Buy Firearms In The U.S. Because “America Is Absolutely Awash With Easily Obtainable Firearms.” According to CNN, “A video from 2011 has resurfaced showing American-born al Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn discussing how easy it is to buy guns in the United States and urging fellow radicals to do so. In the video, the California-raised Gadahn said militants should arm themselves for attacks on Western governments. ‘America is absolutely awash with easily obtainable firearms,’ said Gadahn, ‘You can go down to a gun show at the local convention center and come away with a fully automatic assault rifle, without a background check, and most likely without having to show an identification card. So what are you waiting for?’” [CNN, [4/12/13](#)]

- **Gadahn: “You Can Go Down To A Gun Show...And Come Away With A Fully Automatic Assault Rifle, Without A Background Check, And Most Likely Without Having To Show An Identification Card. So What Are You Waiting For?”** According to CNN, “A video from 2011 has resurfaced showing American-born al Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn discussing how easy it is to buy guns in the United States and urging fellow radicals to do so. In the video, the California-raised Gadahn said militants should arm themselves for attacks on Western governments. ‘America is absolutely awash with easily obtainable firearms,’ said Gadahn, ‘You can go down to a gun show at the local convention center and come away with a fully automatic assault rifle, without a background check, and most likely without having to show an identification card. So what are you waiting for?’” [CNN, [4/12/13](#)]

NRA OPPOSED THE U.S. SIGNING ON TO A TREATY MEANT TO PREVENT WEAPONS FROM GETTING INTO THE HANDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS AND TERRORISTS

The NRA Strongly Opposed The U.S. Signing An International Accord “To Stem The Flow Of Weapons To Human Rights Violators And Conflict Zones.” According to the Washington Post, “The United States will sign the international Arms Trade Treaty on Wednesday, agreeing to the accord to stem the flow of weapons to human rights violators and conflict zones, over the strong opposition of the U.S. gun lobby, according to a senior State Department official. The National Rifle Association has said the treaty will be used to regulate civilian weapons and to create an ‘unacceptable’ registry of civilian firearms purchasers.” [Washington Post, [9/24/13](#)]

NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox: “If The U.N. Gun Ban Treaty Is Ever Ratified Into Law, Or Implemented By Obama Behind The Scenes, We May Never Get A Second Chance To Save The Second Amendment.” According to OneNewsNow, “NRA-ILA executive director Chris Cox warns Americans that this latest straight-arm by the president to push past the democratic process once again is no ruse. ‘Make no mistake,’ Cox exhorts Americans. ‘If the U.S. Senate fails to stand strong against the U.N. gun ban treaty and fight back against every backdoor attempt by the Obama administration to implement it, we will lose our gun rights and effectively lose our national sovereignty.’ [...] Cox insists that Americans’ national sovereignty and Second Amendment freedom have never been more in jeopardy than now. He stresses that if the Senate isn’t persuaded to stand up to the president against his push for the U.N. treaty, America could hit the point of no return. ‘If the U.N. gun ban treaty is ever ratified into law, or implemented by Obama behind the scenes, we may never get a second chance to save the Second Amendment,’ Cox concludes.” [OneNewsNow, [1/22/15](#)]

NRA Took Credit For Killing The United Nations Arms Trade Treaty In 2012. According to an article on the NRA-ILA website, “The Conference on the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (U.N. ATT) has broken down and will not report a draft treaty to the member nations. This is a big victory for American gun owners, and the NRA is being widely credited for killing the U.N. ATT. For nearly 20 years, the NRA has worked tirelessly to warn American gun owners about the United Nations’ efforts to undermine the constitutional rights of law-abiding American gun owners by putting in place international controls on small arms.” [NRAILA.org/articles, [7/27/15](#)]

Cox: “If The U.S. Senate Fails To Stand Strong Against The U.N. Gun Ban Treaty...We Will Lose Our Gun Rights And Effectively Lose Our National Sovereignty.” According to OneNewsNow, “NRA-ILA executive director Chris Cox warns Americans that this latest straight-arm by the president to push past the democratic process once again is no ruse. ‘Make no mistake,’ Cox exhorts Americans. ‘If the U.S. Senate fails to stand strong against the U.N. gun ban treaty and fight back against every backdoor attempt by the Obama administration to implement it, we will lose our gun rights and effectively lose our national sovereignty.’ [...] Cox insists that Americans’ national sovereignty and Second Amendment freedom have never been more in jeopardy than now. He stresses that if the Senate isn’t persuaded to stand up to the president against his push for the U.N. treaty, America could hit the point of no return. ‘If the U.N. gun ban treaty is ever ratified into law, or implemented

by Obama behind the scenes, we may never get a second chance to save the Second Amendment,' Cox concludes.” [OneNewsNow, [1/22/15](#)]

IN THE WAKE OF THE MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO, THE NRA FOUGHT AGAINST REASONABLE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION MEASURES

Observers Criticized The NRA For “Paving The Way” And For Being “Complicit” In The Orlando Mass Shooting

New York Times Editorial: “The NRA’s Complicity In Terrorism.” [Editorial – New York Times, [6/16/16](#)]

New York Times Editorial: “Few Places On Earth Make It Easier Than The United States For A Terrorist To Buy Assault Weapons To Mow Down Scores Of People In A Matter Of Minutes.” According to an editorial from the New York Times, “Few places on earth make it easier than the United States for a terrorist to buy assault weapons to mow down scores of people in a matter of minutes. The horrific massacre in Orlando last weekend is only the latest example. And all this is made vastly easier by a gun lobby that has blocked sensible safety measures at every turn, and by members of Congress who seem to pledge greater allegiance to the firearms industry than to their own constituencies. There is a word for their role in this form of terrorism: complicity.” [Editorial – New York Times, [6/16/16](#)]

New York Times Editorial: “All This Is Made Vastly Easier By A Gun Lobby That Has Blocked Sensible Safety Measures At Every Turn... There Is A Word For Their Role In This Form Of Terrorism: Complicity.” According to an editorial from the New York Times, “Few places on earth make it easier than the United States for a terrorist to buy assault weapons to mow down scores of people in a matter of minutes. The horrific massacre in Orlando last weekend is only the latest example. And all this is made vastly easier by a gun lobby that has blocked sensible safety measures at every turn, and by members of Congress who seem to pledge greater allegiance to the firearms industry than to their own constituencies. There is a word for their role in this form of terrorism: complicity.” [Editorial – New York Times, [6/16/16](#)]

New York Times Editorial: The NRA Rejects Basic Gun Safety Steps Supported By Americans “Even Though It Says That Terrorists Shouldn’t Be Able To Get Guns.” According to an editorial from the New York Times, “What makes the legislative inaction all the more maddening is that there is general public agreement in favor of attempts like these to reduce the bloodshed. An overwhelming majority of Americans — including gun owners and even N.R.A. members — support universal background checks, while strong majorities want to block sales to suspected terrorists and ban high-capacity magazines. And yet the N.R.A. rejects these steps, even though it says that terrorists shouldn’t be able to get guns.” [Editorial – New York Times, [6/16/16](#)]

New York Times Editorial: The NRA “Clings To The Absurd Fantasy That A Heavily-Armed Populace Is The Best Way To Keep Americans Safe. That Failed In Orlando, Where An Armed Security Guard Was On The Scene.” According to an editorial from the New York Times, “And yet the N.R.A. rejects these steps, even though it says that terrorists shouldn’t be able to get guns. Instead, it clings to the absurd fantasy that a heavily-armed populace is the best way to keep Americans safe. That failed in Orlando, where an armed security guard was on the scene but could not stop the slaughter.” [Editorial – New York Times, [6/16/16](#)]

New York Times Editorial: “In The United States, The Gun Industry And Its Enablers Continue To Insist That The Only Solution Is More Guns And More Bullets Flying.” According to an editorial from the New York Times, “Most of the rest of the world figured this out long ago. But in the United States, the gun industry and its enablers continue to insist that the only solution is more guns, and more bullets flying.” [Editorial – New York Times, [6/16/16](#)]

Rolling Stone: “How The NRA Paved The Way For The Orlando Shooting.” [Rolling Stone, [6/15/16](#)]

Rolling Stone: “The Greatest Threat To Our Homeland Security Today Is The National Rifle Association, A Front Group For The Firearms Industry That Derails Gun-Safety Measures And Perversely Profits With Each New Mass Shooting.” According to Rolling Stone, “The greatest threat to our homeland security today is the National Rifle Association, a front group for the firearms industry that derails gun-safety measures and perversely profits with each new mass shooting.” [Rolling Stone, [6/15/16](#)]

Rolling Stone: The NRA Turned Florida Into The “Gunshine State.” According to Rolling Stone, “The NRA's lobbyists and political allies fought for a raft of permissive state gun laws, turning Florida in particular into the ‘Gunshine State.’” [Rolling Stone, [6/15/16](#)]

Rolling Stone: “The NRA’s Unhinged Gun Advocacy Has Created A Soft Underbelly To Our Homeland Security That Radicals Are Exploiting To Inflict Mass Murder.” According to Rolling Stone, “The combined effect? Military-derived weapons are ubiquitous, cheap and simple to obtain — even for individuals on the FBI's terrorist watch list. The NRA's unhinged gun advocacy has created a soft underbelly to our homeland security that radicals are exploiting to inflict mass murder.” [Rolling Stone, [6/15/16](#)]

The NRA Blamed The Orlando Shooting On “The Obama Administration’s Political Correctness.”

The NRA Blamed The Orlando Shooting On “The Obama Administration’s Political Correctness.” According to Rolling Stone, “Responding to Orlando — the deadliest attack by a gunman in our history — the NRA blamed the massacre on ‘the Obama administration's political correctness’ and not the terrorist's access to ‘so-called ‘assault weapons’ — while advertising that ‘semi-automatics are the most popular firearms sold in America for sport-shooting, hunting and self-defense.’” [Rolling Stone, [6/15/16](#)]

After GOP Presumptive Nominee Donald Trump Suggested He Might Talk To The NRA About Preventing People On The Terrorist Watch List From Purchasing Weapons, The NRA Reiterated Its Opposition To The Law

The Hill Headline: “NRA ‘Happy’ To Meet With Trump But Not Changing Position.” [The Hill, [6/15/16](#)]

The NRA Claimed That It Was Not Changing Its Position On The Legislation. According to The Hill, “The National Rifle Association (NRA) says it's willing to meet with Donald Trump but it's not changing its position on ‘due process & right to self-defense for law-abiding Americans.’ Trump on Wednesday floated a potential ban on buying guns for people on the terrorist watch or no-fly lists, saying he wanted to meet with the NRA to discuss it.” [The Hill, [6/15/16](#)]