
Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

August 2002 □ Issue 94

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ON THE INTERNET <http://www.acslpa.org>

Email Address: acsl@nauticom.net

ACSL Lawsuit against the PSP Registry of Firearm Ownership.

Brady Campaign and Million Moms Join Law Suit Against the ACSL

By this date next month the Pennsylvania Supreme Court would have heard our case. The briefs have been filed, and we ready to argue the case.

As reported last month, the **Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Pennsylvania Million Mom March, and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, Pennsylvanians Against Handgun Violence and Ceasefire PA**, have joined the law suit with an amicia brief in support of the Pennsylvania State Police insisting that they law permits the PSP to keep a registry of firearms ownership. Since that date we have learned that the Million Moms March of Allegheny Count have disbanded. Thus signaling a huge drop off of support in Western Pennsylvania for additional gun control legislation.

Reciprocity Reform On the Move in Pennsylvania.

With strong support coming from the state's Attorney General's office reform of our reciprocity to carry concealed in other states could be a reality in the not to distance further. The ACSL is in close contact with the NRA in helping them put together legislation to be introduced in the Senate identical to HB 2386.

Million Moms March, Allegheny County Dissolves.

According to an article in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette the Million Moms March of Allegheny County has dissolved, and the balance of their monies have been transferred to CeaseFire Pa, another

rabid anti-gun organization headquartered in Philadelphia. It seemed that the 90 some members that this chapter had were not enough to keep it in business.

According to the Post Gazette Nathaniel Glosser of Highland Park told attendees at a recent meeting that the "Million Mom March is a great name and I do not want to see it disappear," said Glosser, who is also president of the Rosenberg Institute for Peace & Justice, which works in partnership with Pennsylvanians Against Handgun Violence.

"The million moms did not show up [for Thursday's meeting] because there is no Million Moms March," he told a reporter.

"We were the Million Mom March of Pennsylvania," Miller said, adding, "After the march, the level of enthusiasm declined."

FOAC Endorses Mike Fisher for Governor

After nearly two hours of discussion Pennsylvania's largest pro-gun, pro-hunting Political Action Committee, Firearms Owners against Crime, voted to endorse Mike Fisher for Governor of Pennsylvania. This marks only the first time FOAC endorsed a candidate for Governor.

It was agreed that Fisher's effort to support reform of the state's reciprocity statute was the key to FOAC's support. Keep watching FOAC's web site www.foac-pac.org for further information on this year's elections.

NRA-ILA FAX Alert

Armed Pilots Bill Flies Through House

7/14/2002

Virtually every poll on the subject of arming properly trained pilots as a last line of defense against

terrorist hijackers has shown overwhelming support for the idea—both from the general public and commercial airline pilots—and now the overwhelming majority of U.S. Representatives are officially on record as supporting this idea, as well. On Wednesday, July 10, the U.S. House passed **H.R. 4635** on an exceptionally strong bi-partisan vote of 310 - 113. **NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox**, responding to Wednesday's action, stated, "Passage of H.R. 4635 is meaningful progress in efforts to prevent the prospect of another terrorist takeover of a commercial passenger airplane."

When H.R. 4635 was originally introduced by **U.S. Representatives John Mica** (R-Fla.) and **Don Young** (R-Alas.), it sought to establish a program to train and equip all commercial airline pilots who wished to be prepared to use firearms as a last resort to defend the cabins of commercial aircraft from hijackers. During committee debate, however, the bill was amended, and when it was brought to the House floor this week, the legislation had changed to a two-year test program that would have allowed for up to 1,400 pilots to take part. Wednesday saw a great deal of debate on the House floor, as several amendments were discussed.

Of paramount concern was an amendment offered by **U.S. Representatives Peter DeFazio** (D-Or.) and **John Thune** (R-S.D.) that returned the scope of the legislation to include any properly trained pilots, and made the program permanent. The **DeFazio-Thune Amendment** was agreed to on another strong, bipartisan vote of 251 - 172. Passage of this amendment was possible thanks to the strong floor leadership of its authors, as well as **Representatives Joe Barton** (R-Tex.), **Randy "Duke" Cunningham** (R-Calif.), **John Mica**, **George Nethercutt** (R-Wash.), and **Don Young**. Of course, most of the more strident opponents of our Right to Keep and Bear Arms continued to put their anti-gun extremist agenda above the interests of airline security, and those voting against H.R. 4635 included many familiar names, including the **House Minority Leader, Representative Dick Gephardt** (D-Mo.), and **Representatives Diana DeGette** (D-Colo.), **Charles Rangel** (D-N.Y.), and **Lynn Rivers** (D-Mich.). But there were some surprise supporters of the bill who can normally be counted on as automatic anti-gun votes, including **Representatives Patrick Kennedy** (D-R.I.), **Tom Lantos** (D-Calif.), **Zoe Lofgren** (D-Calif.), and **Carolyn McCarthy** (D-N.Y.).

With the House passage of H.R. 4635, the focus on arming pilots now moves to the **U.S. Senate**, where that chamber's version of the bill, **S. 2554**, faces a

more difficult journey. That bill is currently languishing in the **Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee**, where the Committee Chair, **Senator Ernest Hollings** (D-S.C.), opposes the legislation and has refused to even allow it to be scheduled for a hearing. But even the Senate has seen one of its most anti-gun members come out in support of arming pilots. **Senator Barbara Boxer** (D-Calif.), who has written, promoted, and voted for many anti-gun bills during her tenure in the Senate, has signed on to S. 2554 as one of 14 co-sponsors.

Even though Senator Hollings appears poised to do everything in his power to derail the bill, NRA remains committed to working with supporters of H.R. 4635 and S. 2554 to ensure the armed pilots program becomes reality. NRA-ILA's Cox commented, "Soon after September 11, many pilots and their unions contacted the NRA appealing for our help in their effort to protect their cockpit from future terrorist attacks. We were happy to assist them in the passage of H.R. 4635. We will continue our efforts to ensure Senate passage of this measure." And with the inclusion of language that provides for self-defense training for flight attendants, the **Association of Flight Attendants** has also thrown its support behind the House and Senate bills. **NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre** told the Associated Press, "There's going to be overwhelming pressure on the Senate to pass this [legislation]."

One of the few voices opposed to arming pilots is the radical gun-ban organization the **Violence Policy Center** (VPC), which has denounced the actions of the House of Representatives, and is calling on the Senate to reject allowing pilots the option of being equipped to defend against a repeat of the attacks of September 11. VPC legislative director **Kristen Rand** stated, "If firearms are absolutely necessary, they should [only] be carried by trained air marshals," thus rejecting the idea that pilots, who are trusted to fly complicated aircraft, can also be trusted with firearms as a last line of defense against terrorist hijackers. Rand must be aware of the widely known fact that there are not enough air marshals to protect every flight. And if she actually understands the legislation, she'd know the training armed pilots would go through would be similar to the training air marshals receive. Yet her organization is blinded by its hatred of firearms: Would VPC actually prefer the horrific scenario of hijacked airplanes being shot down by our own military rather than give pilots a fighting chance against terrorists?

Quick action in the Senate on S. 2554 is critical, so now is the time to contact your U.S. Senators and

urge them to support this legislation. *Please contact your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to cosponsor S. 2554, work to ensure the bill is brought up for consideration, or support it being offered as an amendment to legislation being considered on the Senate floor. Those on the Internet can find additional contact information by using our "Write Your Representatives" tool.*

Teachers & Politics

The **National Education Association** (NEA) is no stranger to getting involved in promoting anti-gun positions. In 2000, this teachers' union promoted a petition drive that called on Congress to enact numerous laws restricting our Right to Keep and Bear Arms. This year, the NEA outlines its support of gun control in the questionnaire it sends to candidates seeking office at the federal level. The group asks candidates if they agree with NEA's support of attacks on gun shows, gun lock mandates, mandatory storage laws that would hold law-abiding gun owners criminally responsible if their firearms are stolen and used in crimes, and added restrictions on certain semi-automatic firearms.

If you are interested in contacting NEA to encourage it to remain focused on labor issues, rather than get involved with promoting attacks on the Second Amendment, you can reach the union at:

1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3290
Phone: (202) 833-4000
Fax: (202) 822-7974
E-mail: www-feedback@list.nea.org
Website: <http://www.nea.org/feedback/>

Keep up the Pressure on Senate to Pass Armed Pilots Legislation

7/19/2002

The **U.S. Senate** has still not taken action on **S. 2554**, which seeks to establish a program to train and equip all commercial airline pilots who wish to be prepared to use firearms as a last resort to defend the cockpits of commercial aircraft from hijackers. Similar legislation passed out of the House of Representatives last week on an exceptionally strong bipartisan vote of 310 - 113. And while pilots, flight attendants, and the general public overwhelmingly support the idea of arming pilots as one of the safeguards against a repeat of the

terrorist hijackings of September 11, there are no guarantees the Senate will even be allowed to consider this proposal.

The bill is currently languishing in the **Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee**, where the Committee Chair, **Senator Ernest Hollings** (D-S.C.), opposes the legislation. Thus far, he has refused to even schedule a hearing, and has simply used his position on the committee to impose his will on the entire Senate, as well as the general public. But support for this bill in the Senate is growing, and there are now 16 co-sponsors—including the normally anti-gun **Senator Barbara Boxer** (D-Calif.).

Quick action in the Senate on S. 2554 is critical, so now is the time to contact your U.S. Senators and urge them to support this legislation. *Please contact your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to cosponsor S. 2554, work to ensure the bill is brought up for consideration, or support its being offered as an amendment to other legislation being considered on the Senate floor. Those on the Internet can find additional contact information by using our "Write Your Representatives" tool.*

Also encouraging to those millions of Americans who support arming pilots against terrorist hijackers is the recent announcement that **John Magaw**, the **Undersecretary of Transportation for Security**, has resigned. Magaw, who served as head of the **BATF** under the **Clinton-Gore Administration**, was in charge of the **Transportation Security Administration**, and was considered by many to be one of the roadblocks to implementing a program that would allow the arming of properly trained airline pilots. It has been reported that Magaw's resignation was not of his choosing.

Senate Lawsuit Preemption Bill Needs More Co-sponsors

S. 2268, which seeks to block politically-motivated lawsuits that attempt to hold law-abiding gun makers liable for the criminal misuse of their products, continues to gain support. When we last reported, 13 Senators had signed their names to S. 2268—introduced by **U.S. Senators Larry Craig** (R-Id.) and **Zell Miller** (D-Ga.)—but thanks to the encouragement of NRA members and the pro-gun community, a total of 22 Senators have now signed on. This is excellent progress, but the bill still needs more co-sponsors. The House companion (H.R. 2037) already has more than half of that chamber's members signed on as co-sponsors (227), and has

progressed through subcommittee, so our focus has shifted to recruiting more support for the Senate bill. *Please contact your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121 to urge them to co-sponsor this critical legislation. Those on the Internet can find additional contact information by using our ["Write Your Representatives"](#) tool.*

CSF Online Survey

Recognizing a need to protect the interests of America's outdoor sportsmen, a bipartisan group of U.S. Congressmen created the **Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus** (CSC) in 1989. In order to create a link between the CSC and outdoor sportsmen, the sporting industry, and conservation organizations, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) was founded shortly after the creation of the CSC. The CSF has now unveiled an online survey, [HunterAccess.com](#), to gather input from sportsmen on access to federal public lands. Approximately 47% of American hunters take part in some hunting activity on federal public lands, and while there have been reports that access to public lands is lacking, specific information that could confirm or deny this suspicion has yet to be compiled.

"[HunterAccess.com](#) will allow us to get specific information about the improvements or declines in hunter access to federal public lands from the hunters that have direct knowledge of what is happening on the ground in the places they hunt," stated **Matt Hogan**, director of conservation policy for the CSF. "While we recognize that this is not a scientific survey, we hope that it will provide important insights that will fill in some gaps and help guide the research we are doing on this issue." Any hunters who have experience with hunting on federal public lands are encouraged to take part in this survey.

Support For Armed Pilots Remains High—Opposition Waning

7/26/2002

Support for legislation that would establish a program to arm pilots continues to gather momentum. A little over two weeks ago, the House passed by nearly a 3-to-1 margin its bill, **H.R. 4635**, which would establish an armed pilots program. Last week's resignation of **Undersecretary of Transportation for Security John Magaw**—the head of the **Transportation Security**

Administration (TSA), who was publicly opposed to the idea of training pilots how to safely handle a firearm on the flight deck—removed one of the bureaucratic obstacles to passage of this critical legislation. And this week, the U.S. Senate finally began discussing its armed pilots legislation, **S. 2554**, and **Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta's** previous opposition to the proposal seems to be waning.

On Tuesday, Secretary Mineta told the **Aviation Subcommittee** of the **House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure** that he had instructed Magaw's replacement at TSA, **Admiral James M. Loy**, to examine the possibility of arming commercial airline pilots. And on Thursday, the **Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation** held a hearing on aviation security where the only real vocal opposition to arming pilots expressed by a lawmaker came from **U.S. Senator Ernest Hollings** (D-S.C.), who chairs the committee.

Hollings's opposition to armed pilots is so extreme that he rejected a request to testify before Congress from the widow of a pilot who was killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks. **Ellen Saracini**, whose husband was killed when the plane he piloted, **United Airlines Flight 175**, was hijacked by terrorists and crashed into the **World Trade Center**, was on **The O'Reilly Factor** Wednesday night. She told **Bill O'Reilly** that Senator Hollings would not let her testify before his committee. After O'Reilly asked if she had contacted Hollings directly, she stated, "I have a letter right here that was addressed to the senator. [U.S.] **Senator Bob Smith** (R-N.H.) wrote a letter, asking that I be able to testify and it was denied." When **NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre** heard from Ellen Saracini, and she told him of her not being allowed to testify, LaPierre sent a letter to Senator Hollings asking, "On behalf of our over 4 million members and the tens of millions of Americans who believe in pilots being given a practical and effective tool to defend the cockpit from terrorist attacks, I am appealing to you to give Ellen Saracini the opportunity to testify."

Fortunately, few lawmakers are willing to openly join Hollings in his opposition to S. 2554, while supporters of the bill continue to make themselves known. The bill now has 24 co-sponsors, and **U.S. Senator Gordon Smith** (R-Ore.) announced he supports the bill after having spoken to two pilots recently when weather delayed his flight out of **Chicago's O'Hare International Airport**. Quick action in the Senate on S. 2554 remains critical, so

now is the time to contact your U.S. Senators and urge them to support this legislation. *Please contact your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to cosponsor S. 2554, work to ensure the bill is brought up for consideration, or support its being offered as an amendment to other legislation being considered on the Senate floor. You can find additional contact information by using our "Write Your Representatives" tool.*

"Attempted" Crimes Language Blocked from Corporate Accountability Bill

An attempt to include language in the "**Corporate Accountability Bill**," **H.R. 3763**, that would have amended the federal criminal code to punish criminal "attempts" with the same penalty as the underlying crime was unsuccessful. NRA and other opponents of the proposal pointed out that it would have created a vague new category of crimes that could be subject to overlybroad interpretation. NRA opposed the measure, pointing out that it could have subjected innocent mistakes or misunderstandings to federal criminal prosecution.

Instead of the nebulous "attempted" crime language, the final bill focuses only on key federal financial crimes, and would create a new crime for any attempts to defraud shareholders, even if those attempts are not successful. NRA pointed out that most states already allow for people to be punished for attempting to commit most serious crimes without actually completing the act, such as in cases of attempted rape and murder, so a new federal law in this area was not necessary.

Senate Lawsuit Preemption Bill Gaining Co-Sponsors

8/3/2002

When we last reported on **S. 2268**, which blocks politically motivated lawsuits that attempt to hold law-abiding gun makers liable for the criminal misuse of their products, 22 Senators had signed on as co-sponsors. However, due in large part to the efforts of NRA members and the pro-gun community over the course of the last two weeks, the number of Senate co-sponsors of S. 2268 has grown to 39. Our thanks go out to the following U.S. Senators who have recently added their support to this bill: **Wayne Allard (R-Co.); Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-Mo.); John Breaux (D-La.); Sam Brownback (R-Kan.); Jim Bunning (R-Ky.); Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Co.); Pete Domenici (R-N.M.); Charles Grassley (R-Ia.); Orrin Hatch (R-**

Ut.); Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.); James Inhofe (R-Okla.); Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.); Ben Nelson (D-Neb.); Don Nickles (R-Okla.); Pat Roberts (R-Kan.); and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.).

As encouraging as this recent progress has been, there is still room for improvement. ***With that in mind, if you don't see either of your Senators listed above, be sure to contact them at (202) 224-3121 to urge them to co-sponsor S. 2268! Those on the Internet can find additional contact information by using the "Write Your Representatives" tool at www.NRAILA.org.***