

1999 Gun Owners of America Vote Charts
106th Congress, 1st Session
U.S. House of Representatives

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236 - Mandatory sales of "lock up your safety" devices

An overwhelming number of House members voted to require gun dealers to include trigger lock devices with every handgun sold. Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA) introduced the provision as an amendment to H.R. 2122. The amendment passed by a 311-115 vote on June 18. A vote against the provision is rated as a "+".

237 - Concealed carry for cops

Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) introduced language that could be considered a "mixed bag" amendment. While the bill would establish the right of concealed carry for retired and off-duty police officers, it does so (some argue) at the expense of setting up a "privileged class"-- regular citizens were not covered by the provision. The amendment (to H.R. 2122) passed overwhelmingly on June 18 by a 372-53 vote. GOA did not urge a position on this vote.

238 - Punishing young adults for merely touching certain semi-automatic firearms

The House easily approved an anti-gun amendment offered by Representatives Henry Hyde (R-IL) and Bill McCollum (R-FL). The provision would have criminalized the mere possession of so-called semi-automatic "assault weapons" or magazines holding over 10 rounds. While this provision would not stop juvenile thugs from getting these types of firearms, the legislation would punish law-abiding youth that, under most circumstances, go target shooting with their parents. The Hyde-McCollum provision passed as an amendment to H.R. 2122 by a 354-69 vote on June 18. A vote against the amendment is rated as a "+".

239 - Partial Brady repeal (on pawn shop gun sales)

The House passed a pro-gun provision introduced by Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) on June 18. The amendment to H.R. 2122 would have allowed a person to redeem his pawned gun without a background check-- if he or she is reclaiming the firearm within a year of the date that that the gun was pawned. A vote in favor of the amendment, which passed 247-181, is rated as a "+".

240 - Self-defense for DC residents

On June 18, the House rejected a pro-gun amendment offered by Rep. Virgil Goode (D-VA) by a vote of 250-175. The Goode amendment would have repealed the restrictive gun ban in Washington, DC, thus allowing residents to own firearms for self-defense. A vote in favor of the amendment (to H.R. 2122) is rated as a "+".

241 - Self-defense for DC homeowners

The House narrowly passed an amendment allowing DC residents to keep a firearm in their homes, by a vote of 213-208. The vote on the provision offered by Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) occurred on June 18. A vote in favor of the amendment (to H.R. 2122) is rated as a "+".

242 - Lifetime gun ban for certain juveniles

On June 18, Rep. James Rogan (R-CA) offered an amendment adding juvenile criminals to the federal list of persons who are prohibited from ever owning a firearm. While this particular measure may, in most cases, deal with violent young criminals, constitutional experts worry that the Constitution gives Congress no authority to legislate in this area. Juvenile crime and firearms are matters that should be dealt with at the state level, as indicated by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in *U.S. v. Lopez* (1995): "[Our Constitution] does not cede a police power to the Federal Government." By inserting its "camel's nose" into a new jurisdictional "tent," Congress could easily ban more and more people from ever owning a firearm. Hence, gun owners who have lived completely within the law for their entire adult lives could one day find themselves disarmed (retroactively) because of a dumb juvenile prank that only resulted in a minimal fine. The continual expansion of federal authority has already resulted in a 1996 law that permanently disarms men and women for mere misdemeanors, such as shouting matches that occurred in the home. The Rogan amendment (to H.R. 2122) passed 395-27. A vote against the amendment is rated as a "+".

243 - Omnibus Democratic gun control package

Rep. John Conyers introduced an anti-gun substitute amendment to H.R. 2122 on June 18. Among other things, this provision would have outlawed individual sales at gun shows which failed to comply with the requirements of the Brady law; allowed gun shows to be taxed, regulated, and inspected with no practical limitations (apparently with the intention of putting gun shows out of business); allowed gun show promoters to be imprisoned for two years for a number of minor offenses including the failure to notify EVERY attendee of his legal requirements; prohibited the importation of ammunition clips holding over 10 rounds; and required that "lock up your safety" devices be provided with every handgun sold by a gun dealer. The Conyers amendment failed 242-184. A vote against the amendment is rated as a "+".

244 - Omnibus Republican gun control package

On June 18, the House defeated the Hyde-McCollum "Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act" by a 280-147 vote. This bill contained anti-gun provisions from roll call vote numbers 236 (trigger locks), 238 (young adult

gun ban), 242 (lifetime gun ban for certain juveniles) and 243 (demonizing gun magazines), as well as the beneficial legislation from numbers 239 (partial Brady repeal at pawn shops), and 241 (DC self-defense) -- plus, language forcing the FBI to speed up its background checks and concealed carry for cops. In addition to the above amendments, the underlying bill would have banned the private sales of firearms at gun shows, unless buyers submitted to background registration checks; and allowed unlimited BATF ability to regulate and conduct harassing inspections of gun shows. In sum, the bill took more negative steps than positive ones. A vote against H.R. 2122 is rated as a "+".

354 - Non-binding gun control

By a vote of 305-84, the House agreed on July 30, 1999 to a non-binding motion offered by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) to instruct juvenile justice bill conferees on the part of the House to insist that the committee of conference recommend a conference substitute which (a) includes a requirement that background checks be conducted on all firearms sales at gun shows, (b) does not include any measure that would weaken the effectiveness of background checks currently conducted or eliminate any other provision of Federal firearms law or regulation, and (c) authorizes funding for school violence programs. In addition, the Conyers motion instructs conferees to recommend a conference substitute before adjournment for the August recess so that gun control measures can be passed before children return to school. A vote against the motion is rated as a "+".

447 - Anti-gun instructions for House conferees

Shortly after the Doolittle motion (vote #446) passed, Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) brought another Motion to Instruct. The conferees having now been told not to infringe on individual Second Amendment rights, the Lofgren motion urged the conferees to adopt the belief that numerous types of gun control are not infringements. Most of the Senate-passed crime bill gun control provisions were specifically mentioned, including background registration checks for private sales at gun shows, a juvenile semi-auto ban, mandatory gun locks with all handgun sales, and extending the prohibited persons list to persons with juvenile convictions. The measure passed 241-167. A vote against the Motion to Instruct is rated as a "+".

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