

THE Gun Owners

43 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2018

Momentum Growing for Semi-auto Ban

by John Velleco

Las Vegas. Southerland Springs. Parkland.

Horrific attacks on innocent civilians carried out by deranged madmen. And thousands of gun laws did not stop them.

Still, using the urban dictionary definition of insanity, legislators want to pile on more and more gun control laws, expecting a different result.

Following the Parkland tragedy, a group of teenagers — funded by the likes of George Clooney, Oprah Winfrey and many others — have led a renewed push for gun control.

They are insisting that the government take away their rights, and everyone else's, too.

Rest assured, these activists will not be satisfied with “modest” gun control proposals such as what the Republican-led Congress foolishly tried to hand them in the Omnibus spending bill in April.

The onerous Fix NICS Act, tucked into a 2,232 page bill written in the dead of night and passed the very next

GOA Resists Calls for Gun Control



After the tragic Parkland shooting, gun controllers rushed to implement so-called “red flag laws,” properly known as gun Confiscation Orders. However, GOA responded by pushing to repeal gun-free zones, where 98 percent of public mass shootings occur. Gun owners can watch the above Fox News video on GOA's YouTube page: www.youtube.com/GunOwnersofAmerica

day, only whetted the appetite of the Left.

It wasn't enough that Republican turncoats handed them three quarters of a billion dollars in more gun control.

Not even close.

Gun control forces sense weakness and are eager to shove more gun control down the throats of the feckless Repub-

Continued on page 2

Gun Owners Came Very Close to Defeating Fix NICS Gun Control

by Erich Pratt

The Swamp Creatures on Capitol Hill pulled out a razor-close victory in March when they passed the anti-gun government spending bill.

By a margin of two votes, the House narrowly passed the “rule” which set forth the terms of debate for the bill.

Had only two members changed their votes, the rules vote would have been 209-209 — and the gun controlled-laden “Omnibus bill” would have

gone down.

Instead, the anti-gun spending bill went to the Senate and then to the President for his signature.

For months, the anti-gun Left had been trying to jump start gun control after the Las Vegas and Texas shootings.

But they were dispirited.

Some media outlets were declaring that prospects for gun control were as

Continued on page 6

Inside:

- See why GOA is opposing “red flag laws” (page 3)
- GOA in the News (page 4)
- GOA on the Front Lines (page 5)

Momentum Growing for Semi-auto Ban

Continued from page 1

lican leadership.

The push is on for Universal Background Checks. The insidious “Take the guns first, due process second” gun confiscation orders.

And their top prize — a ban on semi-automatic firearms.

In a march of two hundred thousand strong in Washington, D.C., the battle cry was to ban “assault weapons,” as they misuse the term.

Their congressional allies responded obediently.

H.R. 5087, officially titled the “Assault Weapons Ban of 2018,” has close to 200 cosponsors in the House.

Its Senate counterpart, offered by Dianne Feinstein of California, has 29 cosponsors.



Anti-gun Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) was giddy after hearing President Trump indicate he might consider a ban on commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms.

Manchin, who already earned the ire of gun owners across the country for aggressively pushing a gun control package with Republican Senator Pat

Toomey in 2013, indicated he might consider some parts of her proposal.

Will Republicans shoot themselves in the other foot?

Even if national Democrats don't succeed in passing a repeat of the 1994 semi-auto ban, they are hoping to use a semi-auto ban as a keystone issue in the 2018 midterm elections.

If history is any guide, that strategy could inadvertently help Republicans maintain control of the House and Senate — despite the GOP's treachery over Fix NICS.

It was gun owners, after all, who helped Donald Trump win traditionally blue states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Congressional Republicans benefited greatly from the pro-gun voter turnout, but what have the voters gotten in return?

The Hearing Protection Act (HPA) was shelved after a 66-year-old, leftist Bernie Sanders supporter attacked Republicans at a practice the day before the annual congressional baseball game.

National concealed carry reciprocity was poisoned when the Fix NICS gun control bill was attached to it. Reciprocity is languishing in Congress for no reason other than the Republican leaders refuse to push for it.

So, for all their efforts in electing a Republican House, Senate and White House, pro-gun voters got in return ... “gun control lite.”

It's as if Republicans are doing

Continued on page 6

“Gun Owners of America lobbyists work the halls of Congress daily. But the people who politicians listen to the most is you, the voter.”

These bills would ban hundreds of commonly owned semi-automatic firearms that are used every day by millions upon millions of Americans for lawful purposes, including self-defense.

And semi-automatic rifles are in no way the “weapon of choice” for criminals, who always have preferred handguns.

Some so-called “moderate” Democrats are starting to show their true colors.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, for example, campaigned against a semi-auto ban and had voted against it in the past, but has now announced that he is supporting the ban.

At a bi-partisan meeting on gun control at the White House, President Trump indicated he was open to banning semi-autos — although the White House later “clarified” that Trump is opposed to the ban.

In response to the President's comments, a giddy Dianne Feinstein looked across the table at West Virginia Democrat Senator Joe Manchin.

“Are you ready, Joe?” she said.

Student Pushes for Failed Gun Control Policies



David Hogg, a student at the Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, rose to national prominence after the Parkland shooting — all because the leftist media has been eager to promote his calls for gun control.

Should Conservatives Support Gun Confiscation Orders?

by Michael Hammond

What if the police — or an angry relative — could convene a secret hearing and, without notifying you, could have you arrested for 21 days?

Or shut down your newspaper for 21 days?

Or seize your home for 21 days?

And what if they did not have to prove that there was probable cause that you had committed a crime — but rather only that they thought you might be “dangerous” (whatever that means)?

Crazy, you say? Unconstitutional?

Well, that is exactly what some conservatives are proposing with respect to the Second Amendment. It is amazing that anyone outside of Bloomberg and Giffords would think Gun Confiscation Orders are a good idea.

But by calling them “red flag laws” or “extreme risk protection orders,” these conservatives have convinced themselves that Gun Confiscation Orders are something other than what they are: a suspension of the Second Amendment without due process, without probable cause, and, in fact, without any crime at all.

The several states which have enacted these laws are, in most cases, the gun-hating jurisdictions you would expect.

With some variations, they allow the police or others to convene a secret proceeding, in which you can be stripped

of your gun rights and Fourth Amendment rights, even though you are barred from participating in the hearing or arguing your side of the dispute.

The first you will learn of it is when police or a SWAT team knocks on your door — ready to ransack your house and, if you resist, to do even worse.

The standard is not whether there is probable cause to believe that you have committed a crime, as the Constitution requires. Rather, the standard is some



subjective determination about whether you represent some “danger.”

As in the film *Minority Report*, you are stripped of your fundamental constitutional rights based on the subjective possibility of a future crime or, rather, a “thought crime.”

Americans should know from our history with temporary restraining orders that many accusers lie or make mistakes.

Remember the woman in New Mexico who obtained a temporary restrain-

ing order against David Letterman because he was supposedly sending her secret “code” words over the airways?

Well, if temporary restraining orders have real due process problems, what should we expect from the Gun Confiscation Order designed to take them much, much further?

You won’t get a trial by jury before your guns are taken — or a trial of any sort, for that matter.

You won’t even be able to get your attorney before the judge.

The accuser will be the **ONLY ONE** in the room. And so the court is almost always going to issue the Confiscation Order.

In an exposé on Gun Confiscation Orders in Seattle, only one request was ever denied.

And in Massachusetts, a liberal state representative, Barbara Gray, said of much-less-intrusive protective orders: “I think judges grant the restraining orders without asking too many questions.”

Defenders of Gun Confiscation Orders point out that after a fixed period of time — say, 21 days — the gun owner can ask for a court hearing to restore his or her constitutional rights.

But most people don’t have the \$10,000 to spend in trying to get their guns back.

And how easy do you think it will be to convince a court it made a mistake? That would be a fool’s errand.

Bottom line: Bad guys who want to inflict harm will still get around laws imposing Gun Confiscation Orders.

But law-abiding gun owners will now have to sue in court — spending thousands upon thousands of dollars — to get back guns which were confiscated without Due Process. ■

Are you a GOA Life Member yet?



Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.

LIFE MEMBER

When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

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GOA in the Media



GOA Blanketing the Media

GOA spokesmen — including executive director Erich Pratt, pictured here on ABC's *Good Morning America* — have appeared on thousands of TV, radio, newspaper and social media streaming outlets this year.



GOA Empowering the Grassroots

GOA's Director of Communications Jordan Stein shows off his Smith & Wesson AR-15 in a YouTube livestream event with the 2nd Amendment Activist Channel. Stein has appeared on various YouTube livestreams to explain different Second Amendment issues — and sometimes, to offer a little “show and tell” of his firearms.



GOA Exposes Anti-Gunners

GOA hit the streets during the gun control protest that took place in our nation's capital to interview marchers and expose the agenda. You can see the viral video on GOA's Facebook page and YouTube channel.



GOA Debates the Gun-Hating Media

CNN's anti-gun Richard Quest challenged GOA's Erich Pratt to a “rematch debate” following the Parkland shooting — and it can viewed on GOA's Facebook or YouTube channel.

View any YouTube video mentioned above at: www.youtube.com/GunOwnersofAmerica

GOA ON THE FRONT LINES



GOA Charging for Constitutional Carry

GOA's executive director emeritus, Larry Pratt (left), testified in Iowa for Constitutional Carry. He is pictured here with gun rights leader, Aaron Dorr (center), and Sen. Rick Bertrand, who is the sponsor of the permitless carry bill. As this newsletter goes to press, GOA is also working to get Constitutional Carry enacted in Oklahoma.



GOA Recognizing Activism

Mark Robinson (left) gave a powerful, pro-gun speech at a Greensboro, NC city council meeting that went viral. GOA's Erich Pratt had the honor of meeting Mark and presented him with a GOA Life Membership for his efforts. Erich also had an in-depth interview with Mark, which you can view on GOA's YouTube channel.



Photo Credit: Harrison Rice, GOA Life Member (15-years old)

Telling State Legislators "No More Gun Control"

GOA Life Member and New Hampshire spokesman Alan Rice spoke at a gun rights rally in Concord — on a day when pro-gun activists were protesting in state capitals across the country.



GOA Educating the Next Generation

GOA's Larry Pratt has been speaking at universities all over the nation — despite opposition from anti-gun leftists who hate free speech as much as they detest the Second Amendment. At one college in California, the venue was changed an hour before the event because death threats were leveled against Pratt.



GOA in USA Today

Over 90% of USA Today readers agreed with Erich Pratt's editorial after the Parkland, Florida shooting — more than doubling the percentage that agreed with the editorial post by USA Today editors.

View any YouTube video mentioned above at: www.youtube.com/GunOwnersofAmerica

Gun Owners Came Very Close to Defeating Fix NICS Gun Control

Continued from page 1

“dim as ever.”

And several gun control advocates in Congress had expressed their vocal disgust that they couldn't get any legislation passed.

Of course, the Parkland shooting in February changed everything.

Never mind that the killer violated the law or should have been stopped dozens of times by courts and government officials.

And never mind that on that fateful day, sheriff's deputies all stood down, and in some cases, literally ran and hid.

No, instead of holding government accountable, the politicians ended up doing what they always do when they fail — they targeted the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Gun rights activists were loud

The Omnibus bill that the President signed in March contains several gun control provisions.

The most prominent was the Fix NICS provision which could strip millions of veterans, seniors, medical marijuana smokers, traffic ticket violators, and others of their constitutional rights — without substantive due process.

Readers can go here to see all the gun-related provisions in the Omnibus: www.gunowners.me/omnibus

And they can see how their legislators voted on this and other gun issues here: www.gunowners.me/votes2018

Giving credit where it's due, the

GOA Rallying Grassroots Gun Owners



Erich Pratt
Executive Director

GOA spoke with the Military Arms Channel in January to rally gun owners in opposition to gun control in Congress. Interested viewers can watch this video on GOA's YouTube page: www.youtube.com/GunOwnersofAmerica

activism from gun owners almost killed Fix NICS.

GOA members acted on our alerts, and we came within two votes of stopping gun control.

All of this, despite the overwhelming

support by the NRA and the Republican leaders for the anti-gun Fix NICS bill. See www.gunowners.me/NRAFixNICS (*case sensitive*).

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was a cosponsor of Fix NICS in the Senate (S. 2135), and both House Speaker Paul Ryan and the President wanted this provision stuck into the omnibus.

And yet, even though we were fighting an uphill battle, we came within a whisker of defeating gun control in the House.

The bottom line: We lost a heart-breaker when the President signed the anti-gun Omnibus bill into law.

But gun controllers have still not been able to use the Parkland tragedy to pass ANY of their major agenda at the federal level — including Universal Background Checks, Gun Confiscation Orders or bans on semi-autos.

Thankfully, over the past two decades, we have been able to win more often than not.

GOA succeeded in stopping every single word of gun control after the tragedies at Columbine, Sandy Hook, Orlando, and Las Vegas.

And, with your continued help, we will ultimately succeed in winning the gun control battles we are waging. ■

Did Your Congressman Vote Pro-Gun?

Twenty-five pro-gun hero Republicans voted NO on the “rule” in the House and brought us within two votes of killing gun control. You can view the votes here: www.gunowners.me/25progunvotes (*case sensitive*)

Momentum Growing for Semi-auto Ban

Continued from page 2

everything they can to hand over the reins of power.

Maybe there's not so much a “blue wave” coming as it is a Republican retreat from their campaign promises.

There are a few promising signs on the horizon, however.

Good things on the horizon?

Paul Ryan is stepping down as

House Speaker. That's good news, but only if his number two man, Kevin McCarthy, doesn't take his place.

Gun Owners of America came out immediately after Ryan's announcement and is pushing for pro-gun stalwart Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) to be the next Speaker.

Some of GOA's friends on Capitol Hill are reporting that many of their colleagues recognize that they were betrayed by their own leadership in the passage of the Fix NICS bill. That could translate into greater numbers on our side in the next legislative battle.

And GOA is working with campaigns across the country to elect the best crop of pro-gun candidates possible.

There can be no doubt that the political reality has shifted enormously over the past half year.

We have gone from being closer than ever to passing constitutional carry-friendly reciprocity and the HPA, to now dealing with the serious threat of a semi-auto and magazine ban.

Gun Owners of America lobbyists work the halls of Congress daily. But the people who politicians listen to the most is you, the voter. ■

Why We Cannot Compromise

Continued from page 8

The people I interviewed freely admitted they wanted far-reaching gun bans.

They wanted to ban AR-15's. Although most of them thought they were fully-automatic firearms.

Some wanted to ban all guns or confiscate guns or, in some cases, wanted to go door-to-door putting trackers on all guns.

This is what the real agenda of the anti-gun Left is.

Most of the marchers would agree with John Paul Stevens — they want to repeal the Second Amendment.

Ironically, there were several media analysts who were very upset with Justice Stevens for letting the proverbial “cat out of the bag.”

The writers at *The Washington Post* were outraged.

Any talk about openly repealing the Second Amendment, they said, will only energize gun owners and help Republicans to keep hold of the Congress in November.

From their perspective, it's apparently better to keep their ultimate intentions for our gun rights a secret.

The anti-gun Left wants to limit your Free Speech, too

One must understand that the attacks on our freedoms will not be limited to the Second Amendment.

Our First Amendment rights are also under assault.

GOA's Executive Director Emeritus Larry Pratt frequently speaks all around the country on college campuses.

In some venues, he debates other speakers. In others, he is the only featured speaker.

Regardless, the idea that a pro-gun speaker might destroy the anti-gun monopoly that exists on a college campus — even for one evening — has been driving the anti-gun Left crazy.

One such example took-

Radical Leftists Try to Silence GOA



GOA's Larry Pratt continues to defend Second Amendment rights on college campuses — despite death threats and other harassment. The liberal school editor on the right was fired after being caught on video pulling down posters announcing Pratt's speaking engagement.

place at the campus of the University of California at Santa Clara.

Larry was the featured speaker one night in February, but the event did not take place as planned — at least, not at the original location.

After several credible death threats were made against his life, authorities insisted upon moving the venue at the last minute.

At the University of Toledo, the opinion editor of the student newspaper was caught on camera tearing down posters announcing Larry's speaking engagement.



The signs at the gun control protest in Washington, DC this past March reveal the clear agenda of the gun control movement.

We have published the video on the GOA website, where one can see the editor — caught with the posters in her hands — arrogantly walk up to the camera that was filming her and saying, “Do something.”

Well, apparently, someone did “do something.”

She was fired.

Despite their fury, the anti-gun Left is not winning

Gun owners must realize that the anti-gun Left will not stop with banning AR-15's or bump stocks — or by imposing Universal Background Checks.

No, they're in this to erase the guarantees of freedom that have been handed down to us from our Founding Fathers.

Thankfully, while their fury may be hot and their tempest loud, we have been able to stymie most of their efforts to impose stricter gun control across the country.

President Obama repeatedly confessed that his failure to pass gun control was the greatest “frustration” of his presidency.

And even the day after the Parkland shooting this year, the *New York Times* ran a headline lamenting that “Frustration Grows as Congress Shows Inability to Pass Even Modest Gun Measures.”

The Left wants to dispirit you by making it seem like the battle has been already lost.

The truth is that their frustration is even greater because there are still millions of very active gun owners who are not willing to compromise their rights.

As stated by the very liberal *Daily Kos* last year, “It's the Gun Owners of America that keeps the Left awake clutching their comforters in fear.”

You see that. The Left fears YOU.

So be encouraged. With your help, even after this latest round of attacks, we will continue to beat back the enemies of freedom.

Thank you for standing with Gun Owners of America. Your support is making a huge difference. ■



Why We Cannot Compromise — They Want to Strip You of All Your Gun Rights

by Erich Pratt

I've sometimes been asked about GOA's "no compromise" policy.

"Don't gun owners have to compromise a little," they ask, "so that we don't end up getting gun control that's even worse?"

In most cases, the question is an honest one — put forward by people who don't want to see their heritage of freedom destroyed.

And yet, what the question misses is this all-important fact: The enemies of freedom are not interested in mere compromise.

Their ultimate goal is the elimination of our gun rights and the repeal of the Second Amendment. (More on that below.)

But even if there were not such a fierce assault on our gun rights, it's important to remember some foundational truths.

Compromising gun rights is illegal

The Declaration of Independence states the undeniable truth that everyone is "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights."

By saying these rights are "unalienable," our Founders made clear that we are not at liberty to give away the freedoms that have been entrusted to us.

The Second Amendment carries over this theme by pointing out that the right to keep and bear arms "shall not be infringed."

Again, that means that our rights are not up for negotiation.

By law, we are not allowed to compromise our rights, even if the other side says they're only interested in mild infringements.

Of course, we know they're not. While anti-gun liberals may talk about mere "common sense" gun control, they want much, much more.

But don't take my word for it. Consider their following admissions in recent weeks:

- Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens penned an article in the *New York Times* stating that he wants to see a full repeal of the Second Amendment.
- A survey by the Economist in February found that over one-third of Democrats want to do away with the Second Amendment — while 82 percent of them want to ban all semi-automatic firearms and roughly half want to outlaw all handguns.

There are more examples of this, but you get the point: The anti-gun Left wants to take away your guns.

Gun banners want to repeal the Second Amendment

This past March, I attended the gun control rally in Washington, DC.

I did several "man on the street" interviews, asking people what kind of gun control laws they'd like to see.

Not surprisingly, there was nothing "common sensical" about their plans for American gun owners.

Continued on page 7

GOA Documents the Radical Agenda



GOA did "man on the street" interviews at the anti-gun rally in March, and produced a video documenting the radical agenda of the anti-gun Left. See the viral video on GOA's Facebook or YouTube pages.

THE Gun Owners

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