

Here's what they're saying about GOA....



TPM April 8, 2013

Democrats Blame 'Gun Owners of America' For Gun Control Setback

SAHIL KAPUR

A little known pro-gun lobby that's well to the right of the National Rifle Association has complicated efforts to reach a solution on gun control legislation, top Democrats have said in recent days.

The Gun Owners of America group's big gripe is that its recent efforts to secure Republicans amenable to the measure have been frustrated.

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GOA is proud of its decision to remain outspoken against gun control in the days just after the Newtown school shootings

NY) about a bipartisan compromise on expanding background checks for gun purchases.

A little known pro-gun lobby that's well to the right of the National Rifle Association has complicated efforts to reach a solution on gun control legislation, top Democrats have said in recent days.

Schumer's spokesman Brian Fallon took note of Gun Owners of America's role in the debate, tweeting a link to the *Times* profile and saying the group "is making [a] deal on even background checks extremely hard."

Meanwhile, the Gun Owners of America is flexing its muscle in [the] first major gun control effort in nearly two decades.

ator," Pratt told the paper. "I hear complaints like that, but I changed his mind." He said members to inundate GOP

Gun Owners of America's role in the debate, saying the group "is making

Gun Owners of America is the true foe of gun control for Senate Democrats who are skittish about the measure now, negotiations over the bill are looking to win over Sen. Pat

GOA's muscle in first major gun control effort in nearly two decades. Prominently featured on the front page of

"They [GOA] are strong defenders of the Second Amendment," said Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas.
— *New York Times*, April 3, 2013



New York Times

April 3, 2013

Upstart Group Pushes Harder Than the N.R.A.

SPRINGFIELD, Va. —

When word surfaced in February that Senator Tom Coburn, Republican of Oklahoma, was plotting for gun buyers, Larry Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, why a bipartisan Senate deal on background checks remains elusive.

Within days, his staff building off the Beltway on the phone with supporters, members were encouraged otherwise make it exceedingly difficult for a check law would not be

It wasn't long until negotiations with Senator Democrat, securing at frustrating advocates of the measure. Once largely unknown, the group's lobbying strength dwarfed by the National Rifle Association, emerging as an influential force as a series of gun control measures heads to the Senate floor.

The group has already been successful in both freezing senators, particularly Republicans, who have appeared to be on the fence about supporting bills to expand background checks and increase penalties for illegal gun purchases, and empowering those who have a strong gun rights background.

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ent," said Senator Ted Cruz, group during his primary

ed the prospects of the bill, to keep records. But the gun

Mr. Pratt said. "We were complaints like that, we know mind."

not rich.

was less than \$2 million,

Congress, while the N.R.A. last year were \$119,850, ranked by the Center for gun it at 230th. Gun Owners R.A. has five million.

members pepper Republican lawmakers with calls. In Republican primaries, the group supports candidates that

Then, Mr. [Larry] Pratt, the executive director of Gun Owners of America, got busy, mounting a lobbying blitz that helps explain why a bipartisan Senate deal on background checks remains elusive.

Once largely unknown, Gun Owners of America, with its war chest, membership and lobbying strength dwarfed by the National Rifle Association, is emerging as an influential force as a series of gun control measures heads to the Senate floor.

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"Gun Owners of America [has] been pressing lawmakers who may have wavered on this emotional issue of background checks."
— CNN's Wolf Blitzer, April 10, 2013

SALON

April 4, 2013

Gun Owners of America out-hardlines the NRA

The group has been gaining power and effectively targeting Republicans in an effort to halt gun control legislation

The NRA's smaller but more hardline gun lobby cousin, Gun Owners of America, is steadily gaining influence and securing Republicans to oppose gun control legislation.

The New York Times Pratt, has been effective indicated that they are on

For example, Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who began working with Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., for a deal on background checks, was pounded by calls and emails from constituents after the Gun Owners of America got involved.

Part of the group's increasing profile might come from its decision to remain outspoken against gun control in the days just after the Newtown school shootings

— which led to newfound media exposure. At the time, the NRA and other gun lobby groups went into hibernation mode, while Pratt made comments like "Gun-free

Gun Owners of America's the N.R.A. to take a more ted, like an expansion of the for

background checks to chief executive of the anyone" on gun sale b Part of the group's

In March, GOA's Erich Pratt shocked his opponent from the Brady Campaign — and Fox's Lou Dobbs — by arguing against background checks, saying that law-abiding citizens should not have to prove their innocence to the government before exercising their God-given rights.



GOP Senators Pushed to Join Gun Filibuster **Lobbying Group's Members Confront Lawmakers Back Home During Two-Week Spring Recess**

By JANET HOOK And KRISTINA PETERSON

Opponents of new gr
week spring recess to pr
Senate is expected to con
At least 11 Republican se
to block Senate leaders fr

Gun Owners of America, any new gun controls, is state visits if they will join any gun bill was initiated by of Utah and Ted Cruz of Texas.

"We have been encouraged while their senators are in government affairs for the senator's vote on allowing lawmakers' voting records

Among those being questioned, 10 are a conservative and gun-

Gun Owners of America, a lobbying group that has taken a hard line against any new gun controls, is telling its members to ask senators during their home-state visits if they will join the effort to block the legislation. The threat to block any gun bill was initiated last week by GOP Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Mike Lee of Utah and Ted Cruz of Texas.

“We have been encouraging our members in all the states to ask that question while their senators are home in this recess,” said Erich Pratt, director of government affairs for the group. He said the group would take note of each senator’s vote on allowing a gun bill to reach the Senate floor when it ranks lawmakers’ voting records at the end of the year.

pressure because he has worked with a bipartisan group that is negotiating a bill to expand background checks of gun purchasers.

intically worded question in legislation as he traveled at the idea that Mr. Paul re made final.

nd Amendment, or is that
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on after Congress returns
c leaders said it might be
al on background checks.
federally licensed dealers.

President Barack Obama and other gun-control advocates want to expand the checks to almost all gun purchases.

A bipartisan group of senators, including Sens. Charles Schumer (D., N.Y.),



“Whenever the NRA tries to be reasonable, the Gun Owners of America becomes more unreasonable and that pushes the NRA. At one time they were the only organization that dealt with this. Now you’ve got Gun Owners of America which is way to the — I guess you would say the ‘right’ — of what the NRA is. It makes it hard for the NRA to be reasonable.”

— Senator Harry Reid, April 6, 2013 on Nevada Public Radio



April 4, 2013

Meet Washington's Other Gun Lobby. It Loves Guns Even More than the NRA.

By Josh Voorhees

In the wake of Newt Gingrich's resignation, which has since ensued, many in the American Medical Association, the largest, and the American Dental Association. But the New York Times says that is doing its fair share to strengthen existing quackery.

According to an *an* e
the top of the group's
Washington." Given the N
the way the Times tells it

Many lawmakers and rising profile and heavy aggressive stance against background checks to its chief executive of the N. anyone" on gun sale back director Larry] Pratt said they've gone far enough.

Gun Owners of America has introduced several bills about to hit the floor that would eliminate gun-free zones even farther right than those of the

When Sen. Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican, backed away from bipartisan talks to expand background checks earlier this year, he did so after Gun Owners of America and its members flooded the senator's office with e-mails and phone calls to make it, in the words of the paper, "exceedingly clear to the senator that an enhanced background check law would not be tolerated."

Democratic staffers likewise tell the paper that other Republicans they've approached to co-sponsor a background check bill were quick to point to the GOA as the most obvious reason not to. While the group's bank account is relatively paltry when compared to the NRA's (nearly \$2 million in total revenue in 2011 compared to almost \$220 million), its members often get Tea Party loud, inundating lawmakers' offices with calls and backing only the most conservative of candidates in GOP primaries back home. While the GOA obviously doesn't have the power of the deep-pocketed NRA, it clearly has power.

[Pratt] would like to unravel the existing ones on gun purchases, fearing they will lead to a national gun registry. "We have opposed them from the beginning," he

at a smaller interest group noteworthy for the impact Republican, backed away for this year, he did so after senator's office with e-mails, "exceedingly clear to the not be tolerated."

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the GOA is also a tougher
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ark Warner of Virginia (A+
egislation (like Obamacare)
e other end of the spectrum,

“Gun Owners of America’s Larry Pratt had a great showdown with CNN’s Wolf Blitzer... [Pratt] did an excellent job of not only pushing back against the idea that the Constitution is up for grabs every time the wind shifts and the public opinion polls change, but also making the point that there will be a political price to pay by those — like Senators Manchin and Toomey — who so blithely trample on the Second Amendment.”

— *ConservativeHQ*, April 12, 2013

**U.S. NEWS**

April 10, 2013

The Math Doesn't Add Up for Gun Control Advocates



*By ERICH PRATT, Director of Communications for
Gun Owners of America*

President Obama wants us to believe that 90 percent of Americans support background checks — a dubious claim to be sure. But even if true, since when do liberties guaranteed by our Bill of Rights become subject to a popular vote?

Polls that throw around the 90 percent figure are suspect for many reasons. For starters, they claim that roughly 80 percent of Gun Owners of America and National Rifle Association members support background checks. But after polling our members, we found that fewer than 5 percent support such restrictions — thus obliterating the credibility of these polls which purport to speak for our supporters.

Not only did a Quinnipiac poll say that, by a margin of 48 to 38 percent, Americans think background checks will lead to confiscation, a recent CBS News poll found that only 47 percent of Americans want stricter gun control. So if that's true, how is it that twice that number supposedly want background checks expanded? The numbers just don't add up.

The fact is, background checks are dangerous because:

- They force law-abiding citizens to prove their innocence to the government

before exercising a constitutionally protected right — something that we wouldn't tolerate with the First Amendment:

- They require the names of gun owners to be sent to the FBI, thus creating the framework for a national registration system — a cause for concern when politicians like Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York and others have called for gun confiscation; and
- They use a database through which government bureaucrats unduly denied more than 150,000 military veterans their constitutional rights, without any due process whatsoever, based on things such as PTSD.

Proponents claim that background checks prevent thousands of people from buying guns every year. It's a lie. In 2010, only 13 people were incarcerated for illegally trying to purchase a gun — meaning that the thousands of people with initial denials weren't ultimately stopped from buying a gun on the street. It's also a lie that 40 percent of gun purchases are done through private sales; The Washington Post gave Obama "Three Pinocchios" for this claim.

Finally, under Operation Fast & Furious, the Obama administration knowingly approved the sales of thousands of firearms to criminals. It is the height of hypocrisy for Obama to then tell Americans they will be safer with expanded background checks when the chief gun runner in America — Obama himself — was ultimately responsible for the program that directly led to hundreds of Mexican deaths.