



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION *of* AMERICA

# THE PATRIOT NEWSLETTER

ENDOWMENT • PATRON • BENEFACTOR

## We Now Face the Fight of Our Lives

You know it as well as I do. We're now in the battle of our lives to keep our guns.

As a Patriot Life Member of the NRA, you've done more to defend our Second Amendment rights than just about anyone – including the vast majority of NRA members. Your commitment to freedom is unparalleled. So today, I want to give you an exclusive preview of the road ahead for our gun rights, and remind you about the limited-time discount and gift offers now available to you at [NRA2021.org](http://NRA2021.org) in recognition of your leadership.

In the last issue of *The Patriot*, I wrote about the opening salvo of the Biden-Schumer-Pelosi team on gun control. They announced their anti-gun goals as plain as day – and revealed their strategy to ram so-called “gun control” through Congress. Now, we're in the heat of that battle, with more and more Congressional action headed our way – including not only floor votes on freedom-killing anti-gun bills, but also Senate confirmation votes on anti-gun Biden administration nominees as well as gun-hating judicial nominees to our federal courts.

Fifteen months from now, you and I have a fighting chance to take away Joe Biden's House and Senate majorities when the next election rolls around. But in the meantime – now more than ever – I'm counting on our Patriot Life Members like you to help NRA hold the line for freedom. That's why I hope you'll pay special attention to the extraordinary membership



offers we've reserved for our Patriot Life Members between now and July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

You can see the full details of your personalized offer by logging into our special website, [NRA2021.org](http://NRA2021.org), with your membership number today. If you're

currently an Endowment or Patron member, you can upgrade to our next leadership level between now and July 23<sup>rd</sup> for a fraction of our regular rate. Plus, you'll receive our NRA Ridgeline Travel Duffel – a \$120 value – as an extra way for NRA to say thanks for your support. And, if you're already a Benefactor Life Member, we have some very special gifts reserved for you as well at [NRA2021.org](http://NRA2021.org).

These offers are available only to our current Patriot Life Members, and only until July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please don't miss this special opportunity to make your mark on the battles for freedom we now face, and receive a commemorative gift that you'll treasure in the years to come. Thank you for all you've done to help defend our Second Amendment rights, and thank you for your continued support. I am truly grateful for your leadership.

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# Psaki Blames Guns for the Actions of Criminals

by Garrett O'Leary

When asked if our country has a crime problem in the wake of last year's events, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said, "There is a guns problem, and that's something the president would say."

Psaki and President Joe Biden would rather blame the millions of Americans who lawfully and responsibly exercise their constitutional rights than focus on addressing the criminal element of society.

And what is their proposed solution? They believe that implementing more-restrictive legislation to curtail your Second Amendment rights is key to solving the problem; this despite the fact that it doesn't come close to addressing the root cause. In short, they want the law-abiding to pay the price for the actions of criminals.

When later questioned about coming gun-control legislation, specifically so-called "universal" background checks and red-flag laws, Psaki said that these priorities are at the "top of [Biden's] agenda."

Of course, both red-flag laws and "universal" background checks are affronts to Second Amendment rights.

Law-abiding Americans know, however, that they are neither at fault for the actions of those who wish to do harm unto others, nor are their firearms responsible; after all, firearms are simply tools, as are hammers, knives or any other object. When treated with reverence and responsibility, they are simply tools for people to use to protect themselves and to participate in shooting sports. When it comes to defending against those who wish to do harm, it is this great freedom that comes to our protection.

Yet, Psaki and Biden remained undeterred. The White House press secretary also said that the president's



position on gun-control measures is clear and that "he will continue to press Congress to move forward." Last year saw a record-shattering number of Americans choose to exercise their rights amidst rising crime rates. This year has already built upon this trend. It's clear Americans would rather defend themselves than remain helpless.

# Critical Lawsuits Where NRA-ILA is Leading the Battle

by Mark Chestnut

While most American gun owners know that NRA Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) is at the tip of the spear when it comes to lobbying against legislative assaults on the Second Amendment, many are unaware of the countless hundreds of hours NRA-ILA devotes to another battleground: America's judicial system. NRA-ILA is involved in dozens of lawsuits. Here are four that are especially critical at this point in the history of our republic.

ILA petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to take two cases this term, and the high court decided to take one of them, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*. In that important case, ILA is challenging New York's requirement that applicants demonstrate "proper cause" to carry a firearm. Interestingly, 23 state attorneys general from around the nation filed an amicus brief in support of the petition.

This requirement is regularly used to deprive ordinary Americans in the Empire State of their rights. It has been over a decade since the Supreme Court ruled on a Second Amendment case. It's hard to overstate how important this case is. This case has ramifications in not only New York, but throughout the entire country.

ILA is also fighting in the courtroom to overturn magazine-capacity limits instituted in California in the case *Duncan v. Becerra*. That case involving California's ban on magazines holding more than 10 rounds has had more twists and turns than an Arkansas back road, with a state court declaring it unconstitutional. A year later, upon appeal, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals also ruled the law unconstitutional. Of course, the state appealed again, and an 11-judge panel of the 9th Circuit will be considering the case.

Such magazine limits are currently front and center among President Joe Biden's current gun-control proposals, and are supported by many



anti-gunners in Congress; however, they have not proven to reduce violent crime when tried in the past.

Another interesting case with a heavy ILA presence is one concerning an Illinois city's "assault weapons" ban. That state's supreme court has decided to hear an ILA-backed challenge to Deerfield's ban under the state's preemption law.

When Illinois adopted their preemption statute, they gave localities a limited window in which they could pass gun-control ordinances. Deerfield failed to pass the challenged ordinance in that time period. While the court of appeals sided with Deerfield, ILA is greatly encouraged that the Illinois Supreme Court decided to hear the challenge, as it is commonly believed that they would not have taken the case if they were only going to affirm the decisions of the lower courts.

In a fourth critical case, *Mazahreh v. Grewal*, ILA is targeting New Jersey's "justifiable need" requirement for obtaining a concealed-carry permit. Current law requires law-abiding citizens who want to exercise their Second Amendment rights outside of their homes to prove that they have an "urgent necessity for self-protection" and that a "generalized fear for personal safety" is not sufficient.

This approach of determining who can exercise their rights is blatantly unconstitutional, and ILA is dedicated to ensuring that all Americans can defend themselves and their family, even outside of their home.

The case was filed last December and NRA-ILA filed a motion for summary judgment in April. This case is similar to the New York one mentioned earlier that the U.S. Supreme Court will be hearing later this year. Both states' onerous restrictions on concealed carry are punitive to law-abiding gun owners and must be struck down.

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# Chipman's ATF Hearing Shows His Extreme Anti-Gun Views

by Mark Chestnut

In a U.S. Senate confirmation hearing, David Chipman, President Joe Biden's nominee to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), reiterated his support for banning the manufacture and sale of all AR-15 style rifles—the most-popular rifle in America.

Additionally, Chipman doubled down, stating that he would like to see the millions of semi-automatic rifles already owned by law-abiding American gun owners tightly regulated under the National Firearms Act.

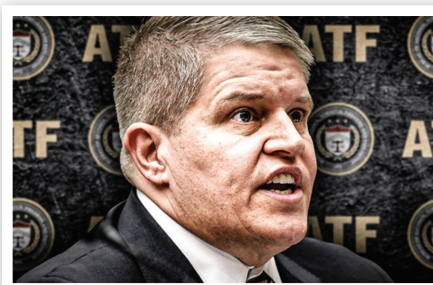
“With respect to the AR-15, I support a ban as has been presented in a Senate bill and supported by the president,” Chipman said in response to a question from Sen. Ted Cruz. “The AR-15 is a gun I was issued on ATF's SWAT team, and it's a particularly lethal weapon. And regulating it as other particularly lethal weapons I have advocated for.”

“So, you want to ban the most-popular rifle in America?” Cruz responded incredulously. “During the Clinton administration there was a ban in effect. The Department of Justice studied that law and discovered that it had no measurable impact on violent crime. Is that right?”

In response, Chipman claimed to not be aware of that particular study; he instead insisted that findings of the law's effectiveness were “mixed.”

Having currently owned semi-automatic rifles regulated under the National Firearms Act would basically regulate them as machine guns are now regulated. Under Chipman's plan, owners would apparently be forced to register every semi-automatic rifle they own with the government and pay a special tax for owning each rifle.

Later, under questioning by Sen. Tom Cotton, Chipman shocked some in the committee with his definition of an “assault rifle,” as any semi-automatic



rifle capable of accepting a detachable magazine and above .22 caliber, including .223 rifles.

“That would basically cover every single modern sporting rifle in America today,” Sen. Cotton observed.

Before the actual questioning began, Sen. Chuck Grassley laid out concerns many on the committee had concerning Chipman's anti-gun advocacy and his fitness to run the ATF.

“Ever since Mr. Chipman was announced, I have been hearing from alarmed constituents who care about their rights under the Second Amendment,” Grassley said. “Mr. Chipman seems to have worked for every prominent gun-control group in the country. He's been described by CNN as, quote, ‘a fierce advocate for gun control.’”

“Many see putting a committed gun-control proponent like Mr. Chipman in charge of ATF is like putting a tobacco executive in charge of the Department of Health and Human Services or Antifa in charge of the Portland Police Department. I hope he can alleviate those fears today as we question him.”

By the end of the committee hearing, none of those concerns were answered sufficiently.

Sen. John Kennedy put it best when he couldn't get Chipman to answer his repeated questioning on how the nominee would personally define an “assault weapon.”

“If you can't answer my question,” Kennedy said, “then how can I vote for you?”

Chipman didn't respond.