

Facts Demand a New 2nd Amendment on Firearms

A well-regulated Militia, being necessary for the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

The Father of the US Constitution, James Madison, wrote this Amendment over 200 years ago. He and the Founding Fathers were all proficient in Latin rules of grammar. Madison, who also wrote Latin prose, used the Latin ablative absolute construction in writing the Amendment. Under this rule, the first part (“*A well-regulated Militia, being necessary for the security of a free State,*”) is inseparably connected to the second part (“*the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*”); one part can NOT exist without the other. Therefore, one has the right to keep and bear firearms if and only if one is a member of a well-regulated militia.

In 1975, the District of Columbia City Council passed a strict gun control law. In 2008, Dick Heller (plaintiff), a D.C. special police officer, applied for a registration certificate for a handgun he wished to keep at home. The statute prohibited possessing a handgun in the home without a license, and it also required any lawful handgun kept in the home to be rendered inoperable through use of a trigger-lock. The D.C. (defendant) denied Heller’s application for a registration certificate based on its law. Heller then filed a lawsuit in the D.C federal district court arguing that the city’s bar on the registration of handguns, its prohibition on guns in the home without a license, and its requirement of trigger-locks for lawful guns in the home all violated the Second Amendment. The district court dismissed Heller’s complaint, but the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit reversed on the grounds that the Second Amendment grants an individual the right to bear arms. The Supreme Court granted a review of the decision by the Court of Appeals. (D.C. vs. Heller, 554 U.S. 570, 2008)

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia completely violated the Latin rule of grammar by declaring that the first part of the 2nd Amendment was merely “introductory” and that it could be ignored, thereby leaving only the second part. The full court voted 5-4 in favor of this blatantly erroneous interpretation.

Before proceeding it is essential that every American knows the following facts.

1. The number of firearms in the US is between 412 to 600 million. This amount greatly exceeds the total small arms inventory of all US military forces.
2. PEW Research reports that 44% (142.1 million) own at least one firearm; 3% (9.7 million) own half of all firearms (21.2 firearms average for each); 41% (132.5 million) own the other half (1.6 firearms average for each); the remaining 56% (184.6 million) are purchasing firearms at an alarming rate.

3. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that the number of firearm killings in the 49 year period, 1968-2016, was 1,585,678; by contrast the number of soldiers killed in all wars (over 80) in the 240 year history of our nation is 1,316,783.
4. In 2015 and 2016, the number of firearm killings was 36,252 and 38,658 respectively. This exceeds the number of highway death accidents by nearly 6,000 per year.
5. The number of mass killings by automatic assault rifles in the period 1968-2017 is 7,956. This means that 99.5% of all firearm killings involved non-automatic assault rifles.
6. The number of firearm killings by defensive use of a gun is 1% (FBI, 2014).

How should we characterize these shocking and scary facts. Are we lawless? Gun crazed? Violence prone? You would have to say yes. So what do we do now?

There are two groups: one is for the creation of laws that would prevent the “wrong people” from owning a gun; the other would abolish the ownership of guns altogether.

It is crucial to note that there are hundreds of studies by dozens of professional organizations (e.g., American Psychiatric Assn, American Psychological Assn.) that seek a fool-proof methodology for identifying people who are likely to commit violence in the future. No such fool-proof methodology has been found. Consequently, the quest for a gun control law that would accomplish the reduction in firearm killings to near zero is delusional.

Clearly, the most certain way to reduce the number of firearm killing to zero is to abolish gun ownership for the population.

Revised humane 2nd Amendment solution:

No person may own, keep or use a firearm. Only members of well regulated law enforcement organizations and the military may bear, but not own, firearms.

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