

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 243

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Dear Subscriber,

Anti-gun Rights Democrats have introduced a bill in both chambers of Congress to limit high capacity ammunition magazines to 10 rounds on the flawed theory that limiting ammunition magazine capacity will reduce mass public firearm-related incidents by making a shooter more vulnerable to capture with frequent reloading.

Democrats don't mention ELLIOT RODGER's attack on innocents in Santa Barbara, California last May with low a capacity firearm. RODGER made up for smaller magazines by simply buying more of them.

The "Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act" (S. 33 in the Senate, H.R. 752 in the House) was introduced by **New Jersey Senator BOB MENENDEZ and Connecticut Rep. ELIZABETH ESTY and listed 100 Democrat cosponsors.**

While touting the bill, Connecticut's Democrat Sen. **CHRIS MURPHY played the fear card** the day after police had foiled a "mass shooting" plot supposedly aimed at Congress. "Think of the damage that someone could do in the U.S. Capitol with 30 rounds," **MURPHY told reporters.**

In fact, **the thwarted shooter was MICHAEL BOGOSLAVSKI, 33, an Army veteran whose wife, a federal employee in the Capitol building, he believed was involved with a Capitol Police officer, and threatened to come to her office and shoot the officer. When arrested, BOGOSLAVSKI was found in possession of two handguns, each with less than 10 round magazines, but Democrats didn't mention that.**

The Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act is the first piece of gun control legislation introduced since Republicans won control of the Senate. **Though it has more than 100 co-sponsors in the House, the bill has virtually no chance of a vote in either chamber.**

Two years after losing their fight to expand background checks following the mass shooting at a school in Newtown, Conn., the group of lawmakers insisted that their fight was not over.

A bipartisan measure introduced in the U.S. Senate would treat concealed carry permits like driver's licenses, allowing current permit holders to carry in any other state that issues permits.

This bill, **the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2015 (S. 498)** is sponsored by Sen. **JOHN CORNYN**, a Texas Republican, who said, **"This bill strengthens two of our nation's fundamental rights - the right of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and States' rights to adopt laws that are best suited for their residents."**

CORNYN, said this would "eliminate some of the 'gotcha moments,' where people inadvertently cross State lines" with guns they are legally allowed to carry in their home state.

Anti-gun New York Sen. CHARLES SCHUMER said, "This bill is a menace to New York and would allow potentially dangerous people from other States to carry concealed weapons in our grocery stores, movie theaters and stadiums, without even notifying the police.

"It is a nightmare for our law enforcement officers and the community," the veteran gun banner said, **"and I will fight this legislation tooth and nail."**

Cornyn's bill previously came close to passing in the Democratic-controlled Senate, and may have a better chance this time around under the Republican majority.

--Continued on Page 2

Also in this issue: ● **Obama's "gun safety" budget** ● **Interstate gun purchase bans unconstitutional** ● **States busy with gun legislation, mostly good** ● **"Do Not Underestimate Girls With Guns," in our Page 8 Parting Shot.**

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

...Continued from Page 1

Sen. Marco Rubio is attempting to end Operation Choke Point for good by introducing legislation to completely defund the Justice Department program while protecting gun sellers and manufacturers from future attempts to eradicate the industry.

Rubio's legislation, the Firearms Manufacturers and Dealers Protection Act of 2015 (S. 477), would prohibit funds to be used by the Justice Department or the FDIC to carry out Operation Choke Point "or any other program designed to discourage the provision or continuation of credit or the processing of payments for dealers and manufactures of firearms and ammunition."

The Florida Republican and potential 2016 presidential candidate told reporters, "It has become clear that the FDIC and the Department of Justice can no longer be trusted to carry out Operation Choke Point without targeting the Second Amendment and firearms dealers and manufacturers. We must stop this Administration's effort to target private industries and the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens."

Operation Choke Point was designed by the Justice Department in 2012 to "reduce dramatically mass market consumer fraud" by blocking their access to bank accounts and other financial institutions.

Alan Gottlieb, Chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, applauds Sen. Rubio for his leadership in this important effort to defend our Second Amendment rights.

U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) have introduced the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, a package of pro-sportsmen's legislation designed to safeguard and promote America's hunting and fishing traditions and to enhance the role of hunters, anglers and shooters as America's preeminent supporters of wildlife conservation.

In keeping with a longstanding tradition of bipartisanship on sportsmen's issues, the legislation enjoys strong support from both sides of the political aisle with Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) Co-Chairs U.S. Sens. Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) and CSC Vice-Chairs U.S. Sens. Deb Fischer (R-NE) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) serving as original co-sponsors.

"Being from Alaska, I'm lucky," said Sen. Murkowski. "Our hunting and fishing is top-notch. We learn to love the 'great outdoors' very early on in the Last Frontier. We know how to enjoy it today, and we're committed to making sure that future generations have the same great opportunities.

She concluded, "The bipartisan legislation we introduced will help ensure that our grandchildren have the same opportunities to hunt and fish as we did growing up."

The Obama Administration has released its \$4 trillion budget, calling for \$1.091 trillion in discretionary spending, including \$43 million in program increases for the Department of Justice. DOJ documents cite a \$14 million increase to support the "President's gun safety initiatives". The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) requests an additional \$8 million and 10 staff positions to address deficiencies at the National Firearms Center. **ATF also requested \$30.2 million to hire additional Special Agents and Industry Operations Investigators to "regulate the firearms industry."**

Republican House and Senate leaders have already come out against the Presidential budget request as a whole and will submit their own spending bills.

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

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GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Washington, D.C.:** *The Daily Caller* obtained an audio recording of a talk former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg has attempted to block from being broadcast. The full audio of an event held at the Aspen Institute shows that the 73-year-old media mogul's remarks about minorities and gun control were even more candid than initially reported. Bloomberg said: "95 percent of your murders, and murderers, and murder victims fit one category. They are male, minorities, 15 to 25. That's true in New York, it's true in virtually every city in America. The kids think they're getting killed anyways because all of their friends are getting killed, so they just don't have any long-term focus or anything. It's a joke to have a gun, it's a joke to pull the trigger." Let's face it, that's racist.

● **Seattle, Washington:** Washington Ceasefire recently cosponsored a smart gun symposium in South Seattle, pushing the message that smart guns will make people safer. If only the registered person can use the smart gun, a gun theft is less meaningful, some kid who accidentally picks up a gun can't use it, a depressed person can't steal a gun and use it to kill himself or herself. A local radio talk show host pointed out that the problem is, the technology just doesn't work when you need it. Fingerprint chips can't read wet fingers and a smart .22-caliber Armatix iP1 sells for \$1,800, including the smart watch that has to be within 10 feet of the gun in order to fire, assuming the battery isn't dead.

● **Oslo, Norway:** The Norwegian parliament has resolved by 79 votes to 16 to reintroduce lead shot for live quarry hunting outside wetlands. The decision follows a lengthy campaign by the Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers and The British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC chairman Alan Jarrett welcomed the move by the Norwegian parliamentary committee responsible, saying: "BASC firmly believes that all legislative decisions on ammunition should be based on sound science and this underpins our policy on lead ammunition of "no sound evidence, no change."

● **Conoy Township, Pennsylvania:** Drive into this tiny town and you'll see the standard "Welcome" sign, but it also comes with a warning: "THIS IS NOT A GUN FREE ZONE." It's meant to alert criminals to the fact that many people in the rural Pennsylvania town of 3,000 are armed. A dozen have been installed so far and three more are slated to go up, which would cover every major road into the town. Officials hope the signs give would-be criminals second thoughts before causing trouble. "I think even those who have bad intentions can read," said Stephen Mohr, one of the township supervisors. "What we're telling people is that when they do come here, they should feel safer knowing that everyone in the township is watching out for them."

● **Tallahassee, Florida:** Florida State University criminology professor Gary Kleck has responded to recent criticism of his past studies on defensive gun uses (DGUs) by showing why the criticism is wrong and why a minimum of 760,000 DGUs each year is still a viable claim. Kleck stands by the DGU estimates he and Gertz published and will continue to do until someone can present the one thing no critic of that work has presented to date: namely, "empirical evidence" to the contrary. With that said, the estimated minimal number of times a gun is used for defensive purposes in the United States each year remains at 760,000.

● **Washington, D.C.:** While Democrats, Gabby Giffords, and groups like Moms Demand Action claim that expanding background checks would end mass shootings, *The Washington Post* looks across the pond and demonstrates that Europe's expanded background checks prove useless in the face of a booming black market for guns and radicalized Muslims looking to commit terrorist acts. After all, Europe has expanded background checks and enacted near-total gun bans in certain countries, but the Paris and Copenhagen attacks still took place. In other words, gun control failed in Paris and Copenhagen just the way it failed at Sandy Hook Elementary, where Adam Lanza stole the weapons he used. The lesson is that gun control only controls law-abiding citizens acquiring guns within legal means, who were never a threat to begin with.

FEDERAL JUDGE: INTERSTATE HANDGUN PURCHASE BANS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Federal Judge Reed O'Connor, Texas District, has overturned the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968, which prohibited handgun sales to out-of-state residents.

The plaintiffs in the suit included Frederic Mance Jr., a Texas gun dealer, and gun buyers Andrew and Tracey Hanson, of Washington, D.C. Mance wants to sell handguns to out of state consumers, such as the Hansons, but is precluded by federal law although the laws of Texas do not prohibit the transaction.

The Citizens Committee for the Rights to Keep and Bear Arms originally brought the case, *Mance v. Eric H. Holder and B. Todd Jones*, last July, with noted gun rights attorney Alan Gura, who is responsible for a number of big wins in past cases such as Heller, McDonald and Palmer. The group filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth division. CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb said, "Our lawsuit strikes at the heart of a debate that has been ongoing for several years, since the creation of the National Instant Check System (NICS). With the advent of the NICS system, it makes no sense to perpetuate a ban on interstate transfers of handguns."

IN THE COURTS

Judge O'Connor wrote, "the Court concludes that Defendants have not shown that the federal interstate handgun transfer ban is narrowly tailored to be the least restrictive means of achieving the Government's goals under current law. The federal interstate handgun transfer ban is therefore unconstitutional on its face." The decision can be appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, and Justice may ask for a stay.

SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION SUES DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OVER CARRY LAW

The Second Amendment Foundation has filed a lawsuit challenging D.C.'s highly restrictive concealed carry law, which requires that applicants show a "good reason" for needing the permit. SAF filed the lawsuit on behalf of three men who were denied permits by the Metropolitan Police Department because they failed to demonstrate "a good reason to fear injury to person or property."

Alan Gottlieb, Executive Vice President of the Foundation, said, "The City has set the bar so high that it relegates a fundamental civil right to the status of a heavily regulated government privilege. That is not only wrong, it also does not live up to previous court rulings. The District of Columbia has appealed its earlier loss in the SAF-sponsored *Palmer v. D.C.* case, which struck down the city's total ban on carrying handguns. SAF is still awaiting a ruling.

SAF FUNDS CHALLENGE TO NEW JERSEY CARRY LAW

The Second Amendment Foundation is financially backing the legal challenge to New Jersey carry laws by Israel Albert Almeida, the Andover man who is battling to obtain a concealed carry permit for personal protection. Almeida, represented by New Jersey attorney Evan Nappen, operates a property management business that involves rent collections in high crime areas. He has been threatened numerous times, yet the Andover Township police chief turned down his permit application. When he took the issue to court, the court denied his application on the grounds that Almeida "failed to demonstrate a substantial threat." SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb said, "This is part of our ongoing effort to have New Jersey carry laws declared unconstitutional."

GUN RIGHTS GROUPS AWAIT JUDGE'S RULING ON CALIFORNIA'S 'MICROSTAMPING' LAW

The case of *Pena v. Lindley* was filed on behalf of the Second Amendment Foundation and Calguns Foundation against the Chief of the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms to toss out a State Law requiring all new handguns to be equipped with unproven technology that "stamps" each shell casing with a traceable mark. Since the law took effect in 2013, no manufacturer has made a new firearm that complies with the requirement. If guns without the technology can't be sold in California, and gun manufacturers can't implement the technology, the law is practically a handgun ban. "This is about the State trying to eliminate the handgun market," said Alan Gura, lead attorney in the case. U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller has rejected Gura's request for her to enjoin the state from imposing the ban. See the next story.

FEDERAL JUDGE: CALIFORNIA HANDGUN ROSTER IS CONSTITUTIONAL

In the case of *Pena v. Lindley*, filed on behalf of the Second Amendment Foundation and Calguns Foundation, Judge Kimberly Mueller has found that the limitations under California's Unsafe Handgun Act, which prohibits many pistols commonly sold in the rest of the country, do not violate the Second Amendment. Disbelief was the first reaction among gun rights advocates. Alan Gottlieb, Second Amendment Foundation Executive Vice President, said, "This ruling is not final. SAF has filed notice of appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and we will take all necessary measures to defend our constitutionally protected rights." Brandon Combs, executive director of the Calguns Foundation, said, "It is utterly preposterous that a federal court would rule that a ban on all new semi-automatic handguns does not burden Second Amendment rights."

MAN CONVICTED OF MISDEMEANOR 25 YEARS AGO HAS SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS RESTORED

IN THE COURTS

Julio Suarez was convicted 25 years ago in Maryland on a misdemeanor charge for carrying a firearm without a license and will see his Second Amendment rights restored by a new federal court ruling. Suarez was represented by the Second Amendment Foundation, whose founder and executive director Alan Gottlieb said, "Under existing federal law many people convicted of non-violent state-level misdemeanors have lost their Second Amendment rights because they've been lumped together with convicted felons due to indeterminate sentencing laws. That's not right, and cases like this help restore some perspective." The case provides a "building block" on which similar cases can be challenged, Gottlieb said.

7TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS HEARS 'ASSAULT WEAPON' BAN CASE

A three-judge panel of the 7th federal Circuit court of appeals has heard arguments in an Illinois case against a local ban on some common rifles, handguns, shotguns, and magazines. In June 2013, the city of Highland Park passed a complex ordinance prohibiting the possession, sale, or manufacture of certain types of weapons and large capacity magazines. Punishments include fines and up to six months of imprisonment. Courthouse news reports indicated that the attorney for the plaintiffs, who says that the ban is clearly unconstitutional, were well prepared. The city attorney, not so much. The outcome remains uncertain.

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT HEARS CHALLENGE TO GUN RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Missouri Supreme Court was urged to let the people's will prevail on a gun rights constitutional amendment that was invalidated by the courts after being approved by voters last year. Missouri voters approved both in 2014. Subsequent court decisions struck the measures down based on challenges to the wording of the proposal's description that appeared on the ballot. A lawsuit brought by St. Louis City Police Chief Sam Dotson urged the court to affirm rejection of the voter-approved, gun-rights measure. Among the lawyers arguing on behalf of voter approval was **Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia**, the sponsor the legislation which put the proposed amendment on the ballot. It is undetermined when the court will come to a decision.

COURT UPHOLDS FLORIDA LAW BANNING OPEN CARRY OF GUNS

An Appeals Court has upheld a Florida law banning people from openly carrying firearms purely for self-defense purposes. A three-judge panel of the 4th District Court of Appeal issued the ruling in the case of Dale Norman. Norman challenged the law on constitutional grounds after his 2012 arrest in Fort Pierce on a misdemeanor charge for openly carrying a handgun in a holster. The judges found that the Florida Legislature can enact restrictions on how guns may be carried outside the home without violating the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

US COURT TO HEAR CHALLENGE OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS GUN LAW

The District Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) will hear a motion for a summary judgment on the constitutionality of the Commonwealth Weapons Control Act being challenged by a U.S. Navy Gulf War veteran and his wife. The CNMI was created in 1978 with a Covenant Agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. with the islands under the sovereignty of the United States. The plaintiffs' lawyers said "the intent of the Covenant's framers was to adopt the Second Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution."

PRO-GUN RIGHTS BILLS PROGRESS IN ARIZONA LEGISLATURE

Amid bold rhetoric invoking "a God-given right," Arizona lawmakers are pushing half a dozen significant bills to advance gun rights. HB 2320 would overturn existing law that allows a public agency to arbitrarily ban guns by merely posting a sign and making lockers available to hold guns. An Amendment to SB 1460 would legalize devices "made or adapted to muzzle the report of a firearm" (silencers) and eliminate length requirements for rifles and shotguns. The legislature's energy to advance gun rights has been noted in local media.

FLORIDA MOVES TOWARDS CAMPUS CARRY AND EMERGENCY CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY

Florida's Campus Carry Bill (SB 176) has passed out of the State Senate's Republican-dominated Criminal Justice Committee. The Committee also voted 4-1 on a measure (SB 290) that would allow gun owners without concealed-weapons licenses to legally carry their guns when an emergency evacuation order is given. Last year, a similar measure failed to pass. However, this time the proposal has the support of the Florida Sheriffs Association, which opposed the 2014 version.

IN THE STATES

THREE ANTI-GUN BILLS INTRODUCED IN GEORGIA STATE SENATE

Three bills were introduced in the Georgia Senate that would unnecessarily infringe upon Second Amendment rights. Senate Bill 67, introduced by Senator Emanuel Jones (D-10), would prohibit the carrying of firearms in all public buildings. Senate Bill 68 (Jones), would add a required training component to the application for a weapons carry license, making the process more arduous and unnecessary. Senate Bill 73, introduced by Senator Steve Henson (D-41), would allow an individual to be detained by law enforcement for the purpose of investigating whether such individual has a weapons carry license.

NEW BILL WOULD ALLOW IDAHOANS TO CONCEAL CARRY WITHOUT A PERMIT

Idaho residents could carry concealed weapons without a permit under a new bill that was introduced to the House State Affairs Committee. Greg Pruett with the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance says the bill doesn't require training either. "Anybody can go into a gun shop right now that is not legally prohibited from doing so, purchase a firearm and carry openly without any training. Our argument is well, what good does the permit process do if open carry is not the same as concealed carry."

PRO-GUN BILLS PASS KENTUCKY HOUSE AND SENATE

Senate Bill 67 was passed unanimously by the Kentucky State Senate and has crossed over to the House of Representatives for their consideration. Introduced by State Senator C.B. Embry (R-6), SB 67 would allow citizens more options for firearms training when obtaining a concealed deadly weapons license (CDWL) and would help ease the timeline, cost and process. SB 67 also includes language that adds Kentucky concealed-carry law education to the new CDWL curriculum offered by a national organization.

CPL REFORM BILL HEADED TO MICHIGAN'S GOVERNOR SNYDER

Senate Bill 34, and Senate Bill 35, which together would eliminate county concealed pistol licensing boards, have been passed by the Michigan Legislature, and, once enrolled by the Secretary of the Senate, will be transmitted to Governor Rick Snyder (R) for his signature. Both SB 34 and SB 35 passed in the Michigan House of Representatives by an overwhelming, bipartisan 76 to 34 and 81 to 29 vote, after passing in the Senate on February 3 by a 28 to 9 vote.

MONTANA SENATE OKS BILL ALLOWING GUNS ON STATE CAMPUSES

A bill to let students and the public carry firearms on Montana college campuses won an endorsement Wednesday from the Montana Senate - despite the Governor's veto of a nearly identical bill two years ago. Senators voted 25 to 24 to approve Senate Bill 143 on second reading. The bill would make clear that the Montana Board of Regents has no power to forbid carrying guns on state campuses. "The Board of Regents does not have the right to take away our right to defend ourselves," Sen. Cary Smith, R-Billings, told fellow senators. The Senate vote was largely along party lines, though four Republican moderates joined Democrats in voting no. One Democrat joined the majority Republicans in voting yes.

NEW MEXICO BACKGROUND CHECKS BILL SQUELCHED IN COMMITTEE

A bill to require background checks on buyers at New Mexico gun shows died a fast death when members of the Regulatory and Public Affairs Committee voted 4-3 to table the bill, meaning it won't move forward. All the Republicans opposed the bill, and all the Democrats supported it. Gun owners, sheriffs, a promoter of gun shows and a University of New Mexico football player were among those who testified against the bill. They said it would weaken the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and open the door to gun registries. Michael R. Lucero, the sheriff of Guadalupe County, opposed the bill as one with the wrong focus.

SHALL CERTIFY LEGISLATION SAILS THROUGH NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

Just a week after a measure was introduced making it easier for gun owners to obtain National Firearms Act-regulated items by mandating that local law enforcement must approve legal paperwork, the North Dakota Senate passed it 47-0. In order to legally own an NFA item – such as a silencer, short-barreled rifle or machine gun – a local chief law enforcement officer now must sign an individual's application before completing the transfer. Sheriffs and Police Chiefs would be required to sign off on these applications as long as the individual can legally possess the item.

IN THE STATES

OPEN, CAMPUS CARRY BILLS PASS TEXAS SENATE PANEL

The Senate State Affairs Committee passed bills that would lift a ban on concealed handguns at university campuses (Senate Bill 11) and allow license holders to carry holstered handguns openly (Senate Bill 17). Both measures passed 7-2, with the committee's two Democrats voting against, and now proceed to the full Senate. TJ Fabby, a former Texas House candidate from Waxahachie testified, "I believe that the right to bear arms is a right. I don't think we should ask for permission."

VIRGINIA BILL TO BAR BACKGROUND CHECKS ADVANCES

Legislation that would exempt holders of concealed handgun permits from background checks for the purchase of firearms cleared a Senate committee. Senators on the Republican-controlled Courts of Justice Committee also passed a bill that would allow out-of-state concealed handgun permits and licenses to be recognized in Virginia. Both the background check bill (House Bill 2029) and the reciprocal permit bill (House Bill 1329) were advanced and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

HOUSE BILL FILED TO CHANGE WASHINGTON'S BACKGROUND CHECK EXEMPTIONS

The eight-page House Bill 2164 would improve the exemptions to Washington State's voter-approved Initiative 594. It would exempt police officers, security guards and, most significantly, citizens who hold active concealed pistol licenses, from background check requirements for firearms transfers. It also prohibits State and Local Governments from maintaining a registry or database of information provided by private citizens involved in the transfer of a firearm who are not federal firearms license holders.

WEST VIRGINIA'S PERMITLESS CARRY BILL PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY

Senate Bill 347 unanimously passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee with a committee substitute that made a technical change and eliminated language that was not critical to the constitutional carry effort. Introduced by state Senator Dave Sypolt (R-14), SB347 would recognize the right to legally carry a concealed firearm without the burdensome requirement of having to obtain a costly and time-restrictive Concealed Handgun License (CHL). In West Virginia, it is already legal to carry a firearm openly.

WYOMING HOUSE PASSES BILL EXPANDING CONCEALED-GUN RIGHTS

Legislation that would allow people with concealed-gun permits to carry firearms into public schools and government meetings was approved 42 to 17 by the Republican-led State House. The bill would repeal gun-free zones carved out around elementary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities. It also would grant concealed-carry permit holders the right to take their guns into meetings of the Legislature and local governments. Democrats sought unsuccessfully to amend the bill to leave it up to school systems to decide gun-free classifications.

Parting Shot

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE GIRLS WITH GUNS

A shotgun-toting, 11-year-old Michigan girl, who was not identified, scared away an intruder one Friday evening after he tried to gain entry into her house while she was home alone.

Lapeer County Sheriff Detective Sgt. Jason Parks told reporters, "The 12-gauge shotgun is her weapon. She and her father are into hunting and avid sportsmen. She was familiar with that weapon."

The girl hid in a bedroom closet with the shotgun during the incident. One of the burglars, while making his way around the house, reportedly entered the bedroom and opened the closet door. He saw the girl with the shotgun trained directly at him.

He didn't ask questions, and took off.

"She was able to defend herself from an intruder and be able to resolve an event even most adults would be taken aback by," Parks said.

Authorities believe the break-in is linked to dozens of others in the area, and reportedly arrested James Wasson, 53, and Rhonda Steward, 31, shortly after the incident. The two were charged with first-degree home invasion and other felonies.

Then there are the "old girls" to consider.

A West Columbus, Ohio man visited his widowed mother and gave her a gun out of concern for her safety. The neighborhood was reasonably safe, but you can never tell.

He returned to his home feeling reassured for his mom. As things turned out, the son's timing was perfect.

Exactly a week later, his mother was startled out of her sleep early one morning when she heard what sounded like someone breaking into her home.

It was a robbery suspect who police believe was breaking into neighborhood homes nearby.

The woman grabbed her new firearm and confronted the intruder.

The intruder did not back down after many warnings, and the mother fired her son's gift and hit the intruder.

The suspect was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital hours later.

In Edmonds, Washington, a 33-year-old woman awoke when an unknown man started pounding on her front door at 3:15 a.m. while her family was asleep.

She called 911 and grabbed her gun as the man tried to get into the house. She struggled with him and when she realized she could not keep him out she shot him in the abdomen. When officers arrived, the suspect was in front of the house, and he was taken to Harborview Medical Center for surgery. Police hoped to interview him if he survives.

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Tartaro

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