

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

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As a lifelong advocate of the rights guaranteed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to “keep and bear arms,” it is important that I keep you abreast of Congressional initiatives that usurp or undermine those rights.

While the Constitution has been the wellspring of freedom and liberty for all Americans for over two hundred years, opponents continue to obstruct the full realization of the rights granted under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. For example, Washington, D.C., has some of the strictest gun laws on the books and in June 2008, the Supreme Court struck down their restrictions as unconstitutional. Despite the Supreme Court’s ruling, the District of Columbia continues to have very restrictive gun laws in place. It is then up to Congress to legislatively repeal the current rules and affirm the Court’s decision. Gun rights advocates in Congress have actively fought Washington’s gun ban and have come very close to successfully repealing them through legislative initiatives.

Another issue to follow during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress is that of gun rights for public housing tenants. It is current practice for public housing authorities and agencies to prohibit tenants from possessing a firearm- a clean violation of the tenants’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. Most recently, the House Committee on Financial Services passed an amendment by a 38- 31 vote to prohibit the owners of federally assisted housing and public housing authorities from banning the possession of firearms by residents.

The Constitution applies to all Americans; the dwelling an individual lives in should not be a qualifying factor to possess a firearm. Therefore, it was a great victory for gun rights advocates to pass the above amendment in Committee, yet, gun control supporters want to subversively remove this amendment from the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act later in the legislative process.

I will continue to fight for gun rights on these issues and any others that arise in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. In an effort to protect the Amendment enshrined by our founders for law abiding citizens to obtain and use firearms, I have cosponsored the following legislation:

### Important 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment legislation in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress:

- **Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act (H.R. 1074)** : Will allow licensed federal firearms dealers to engage in out-of-state transactions, so long as the exchange complies with all state laws and criminal background check requirements;
- **Preservation of the Second Amendment in National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges Act (H.R. 1684)**: Will allow an individual to carry a concealed firearm in accordance with the respective laws of the State in which the public land is located. This measure was incorporated into H.R. 627, which became public law on May 22, 2009. The provisions of the bill will be effective February 2010;
- **National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act (H.R. 197)**: Will establish a national standard for the carrying of concealed firearms by non-residents who have a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm in another state;
- **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Reform and Firearms (BATFE) Modernization Act (H.R. 2296)**: A comprehensive bill, that would clarify violations and penalties for licensed dealers, manufacturers and firearm importers through the removal of unnecessary restrictions, correction of errors, and the development of unambiguous investigative guidelines for BATFE;
- **Veterans’ Heritage Firearms Act (H.R. 442)**: Would provide a 90-day reprieve to veterans and their family members to allow them to register firearms acquired overseas between June 16, 1934, and October 31, 1968, without fear of legal repercussions.

If you would like more information on this and other related issues, please visit my website, [www.adamputnam.house.gov](http://www.adamputnam.house.gov), or sign-up for my newsletter at [www.adamputnam.house.gov/signup.shtml](http://www.adamputnam.house.gov/signup.shtml).