



GUN OWNERS of California

GOC PARTNERS WITH CRPA TO FILE A CRUCIAL AMICUS BRIEF TO SCOTUS

By Sam Paredes, GOC Executive Director

An absolute gamechanger for 2nd Amendment rights in California began in one of the least likely places on the planet: New York. Gun Owners of California has recently joined the California Rifle and Pistol Association to file an amicus curiae with the United States Supreme Court regarding *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. City of New York*. Our joint brief supports the parties challenging New York City's restrictive handgun licensing scheme, which prohibits any city resident from traveling outside the city limits while in possession of a licensed handgun, as a violation of the Second Amendment and other constitutional rights.

The CRPA/GOC brief was one of the hardest hitting of the 25 briefs submitted to SCOTUS, criticizing how district and appellate courts have blatantly thumbed their collective noses and ignored the warnings from the Supreme Court from using judicial "balancing tests" when deciding Second Amendment cases.

This is the first case accepted by the high court since the *Heller v DC* 2008 and *McDonald v Chicago* in 2010, landmark decisions that clearly stated the right to keep and bear arms is an individual, as opposed to, collective right. Further, this individual right was deemed so important to "ordered liberty" that the court ruled neither state nor local governments could infringe upon it. Our

brief asserts "Following watershed decisions from this Court like those in *Heller* and *McDonald*, one would expect legislatures to revisit their existing laws and amend them in deference to the Second Amendment. Not only have few, if any, jurisdictions undertaken such an effort, but several have instead substantially increased those burdens... courts have not only mostly upheld laws challenged under the Second Amendment, but have done so in a manner that telegraphs to legislatures hostile to the Second Amendment that there will be no repercussions for infringing the People's right to keep and bear arms."

GOC is therefore asking the Supreme Court to address the issue of review and direct lower courts to use nothing more than textual, historical and traditional analysis of the meaning of the words used in the Constitution.

If the court addresses this issue and rules clearly and affirmatively that courts cannot use traditional balancing tests to decide gun control cases, the legal door will swing open for the Second Amendment community to challenge all of California's unconstitutional gun control laws. GOC cannot do this without your help. We need your faithful and generous support to carry this fight to its ultimate conclusion...the restoration of the Second Amendment in California.

To read the amicus briefs filed by GOC and CRPA, along with the one filed by Gun Owners of America and the Gun Owners Foundation, go to our website at www.gunownersca.com/thecourts/.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The gun-grabbers at the Capitol started 2019 off with a bang, and at this point in the legislative session, we racked up some decent victories. That being said, however, the onslaught to undermine the 2nd Amendment continues. Below is a list of the highest priority bills we are following and their status as of the deadline for bills to pass from their house of origin:

The following bills are STALLED – for now:

AB 18 – Levine | OPPOSE

Imposes an excise tax on a retailer per firearm on the sale in this state of a handgun or semiautomatic rifle or shotgun sold as new. Held in Assembly Appropriations.

AB 276 – Friedman | OPPOSE

Requires anyone leaving their home at any time to securely store firearms. Assembly Public Safety / Not heard.

AB 503 – Flora | SUPPORT

Gun-Free School Zone / Exemptions for CCW holders with written school permission. Assembly Public Safety / Not heard.

AB 688 – Chu | OPPOSE

Requires firearms stored in vehicles to be secured to the vehicles frame. Assembly Appropriations / held in committee.

OVER PLEASE . . .

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE...CONT.

AB 1064 – Muratsuchi | OPPOSE
 Authorizes DOJ to impose unnecessary and punitive civil fines on firearm dealers. In Assembly / held in Appropriations

AB 1096 - Melendez | SUPPORT
 Requires the issuance of a license to carry a concealed handgun for "good cause." Assembly Public Safety / failed

The following bills are still MOVING:

AB 61 – Ting | OPPOSE
 Expands those who can request Gun Violence Restraining Orders to employees/employers/teachers. Passed Assembly/In Senate

AB 879 – Gipson | OPPOSE
 Requires the sale of firearm precursor parts to be conducted by or processed through a licensed firearm precursor part vendor. Passed Assembly / In Senate

AB 893 – Gloria | OPPOSE
 Prohibits the sale of firearms and ammunition at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Passed Assembly/ In Senate

AB 1297 – McCarty | OPPOSE
 Mandates punitive fee increases for CCW licenses. Passed the Assembly / In Senate Public Safety Committee

AB 1559 – Melendez | SUPPORT
 Establishes procedures for "Emergency" Concealed Carry Permits. Held in Assembly Public Safety Committee

AB 1602 – Low | OPPOSE
 Mandates unfeasible requirements for firearm insurance. Passed Assembly / In Senate Insurance Committee

AB 1669 – Bonta | OPPOSE
 Requires all gun shows comply with

new ammunition regulations. Passed Assembly / In Senate

AJR 4 OPPOSE
 Urges Congress to enact background checks for all firearm sales. Passed Assembly / In Senate

AJR 5 OPPOSE
 Urges federal government to use California as an example for firearm safety and for stronger firearm laws. Passed Assembly / In Senate Public Safety Committee

SB 55 – Jackson | OPPOSE
 Loss of gun rights if convicted of non-violent misdemeanors. Passed Senate / In Assembly

SB 61 – Portantino | OPPOSE
 One gun a month lunacy. Passed the Senate / In Assembly

SB 136 – Wiener | OPPOSE
 Reduction in prison terms for those convicted of violent felonies. Passed Senate / In Assembly

SB 172 – Portantino | OPPOSE
 10 year prohibition on gun rights for violation of misdemeanor storage laws. Passed Senate / In Assembly

SB 220 | Hill - OPPOSE
 Unreasonable requirements on secure firearm storage by dealers. Passed Senate; in Assembly Public Safety Committee

SB 376 – Portantino | OPPOSE
 Places limitations on firearm transfers. Passed Senate; In Assembly

AMMO REGS: AROUND THE CORNER

July 1, 2019 is right around the corner and we are concerned there are going to be a lot of people caught unaware when they find out they have to provide everything but their firstborn kid when buying ammunition.

GOC has sent out email alerts, blogged on the upcoming mess and posted informational links on our website and yet we constantly run into folks who are still relatively clueless – plus there's a ton of bad information floating around, which really makes a mess of what's already a big farce.

Back in January, regulations were released and once the public comment was over, months passed before what we see now – which is a basic regurgitation of what was initially proposed. We have provided links to the specifics of the new rules (see below) but first want to share our gravest concerns: the Department of Justice – which is the top law enforcement agency in California – is behaving as if they do not have to comply with statute – again.

Before it even begins, the background check process proves that DOJ is not able to follow the law. Current California law mandates the background check to be completed **instantly**. Given this requirement, why then would DOJ regulations issue "Ammunition Transaction Numbers" allowing purchasers to "monitor the status" of the background check? **We have been asking "if background checks are required to be instant, why would anyone need to "monitor the status" of anything?"** Once again, the Department placing themselves above what is legally required.

Beginning July 1, buying ammo requires a "licensed vendor" to collect data on:

- The date of the sale/transfer;
- The purchaser's driver's license or other identification number and the state in which it was issued;
- The brand, type, and amount of ammunition sold or otherwise transferred;
- The purchaser's full name and signature;
- The name of the salesperson who

- processed the transaction;
- The purchaser's full residential address and telephone number;
- The purchaser's date of birth.

*Even though we can't take legal action against this specific law until the regulations have actually been implemented, a lawsuit has been filed that looks at the issue from a broader vantage point. **Rhode v Becerra was filed** by our friends at CRPA/NRA which states 'Among other effects, the Challenged Provisions completely ban direct mail order ammunition purchases, implement a costly vendor-licensing system, subjects countless of ammunition purchases to a burdensome registration scheme, place numerous restrictions on ammunition vendors, and impose multiple costly fees and prohibitive price increases on ammunition purchasers.' To read the full case, go to <http://michellawyers.com/rhode-v-becerra/>*

For detailed answers to important questions on "who, what, why and how" of the new laws regarding the purchase of ammunition starting July 1, 2019, check out CRPAs FAQ <https://www.gunownersca.com/2019/05/29/ready-not-need-know-cas-new-ammo-registration-scheme/>

ALERT! In addition to the FAQs, GOC has been advised that a **free webinar** discussing specifics on the July 1 background checks will be available on **Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 12 pm PST**. The webinar is being hosted by CRPA/NRA and will be presented by the law firm of Chuck Michel and Associates. To register, visit <https://cc.ready-talk.com/r/wlbgg6ih9y8&eom>

Being armed and informed on this issue is critical for California gun owners. According to comments made by Governor Gavin Newsom just weeks ago, the upcoming regulations – which he is largely responsible for – are simply "phase one." He publicly has called for **nationwide background checks** on

ammunition purchases, referring to this maneuver as "phase two."

FIREARM EXCISE TAX AND OTHER ANTI-GUN BILLS HIT BRICK WALL

Assemblyman Marc Levine (D) thinks one way to get at the gun owning citizens of California is to force us to pay an "excise tax" – to the tune of \$25 per firearm on the storage and/or use of a newly purchased retail handgun or semi-automatic rifle or shotgun. The money would be earmarked for the "California Violence Intervention and Prevention Program."

Of course, the unconstitutionality of his bill (AB 18) is obvious to GOC – we pointed out that there is a great question as to whether it is constitutional to tax the exercising of a constitutional guarantee. As the 2ND Amendment guarantees the right to possess firearms, a tax is punitive, and in our view, a retaliatory measure directed towards those individuals who are working within the law.

AB 18 is a prime example of California's antagonism toward gun owners as well as a pursuit of more-cash-for-them and less-cash-for-us situation. The Governor's Budget included \$9 million ongoing General Fund dollars plus an **extra** bump of \$18 million one-time dollars for the **exact same program** Levin's excise tax would fund. Yet it wasn't enough money for Levine, and we're pleased to report even his fellow liberals didn't buy his baloney and the bill has been tabled for this year. We will keep you posted on any plans to move this bad idea forward next year.

GOC has lobbied legislators heavily this year and we were also able to stave off **AB 688 (Chu-D)**, which made ridiculous requirements for vehicle firearm storage, **AB 276 (Friedman-D)** which mandated we lock up all our guns if we step out on the front porch and Assembly-

man Muratsuchi's (D) **AB 1064**, which sought to impose punitive civil fines on firearm dealers.

JOIN THE FIGHT TO ARM & INFORM!

As a non-profit political organization, Gun Owners of California is limited by a variety of obstacles that have forced us

"Seeing so many folks who care about the 2nd Amendment was a huge encouragement. Good job, GOC!"
 ~ Steve H.

to function with a grassroots approach through the majority of our 40 plus years of existence. We have always been committed to our members and to the Second Amendment and will continue to focus 100% of our member's contributions on the battle to protect our God-given rights of self protection.

Over the last decade, fundraising events have become a significant way we raise the money it takes to participate so

"The crab was awesome and the prizes were even better. Can't wait until next year!"
 ~ Tom C.

heavily in every aspect of the political battle. Our 52 Gun Raffle is our primary statewide fundraiser which provides a foundation for the legislative and legal battles in which we engage. But we couldn't function with that raffle alone. Over the years, we have put together committees throughout the state, primarily Northern California, which are

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JOIN THE FIGHT...CONT.

made up of dedicated volunteers who put on some incredible events. We have crab feeds and prime rib dinners, sporting clay shoots and more ... all with the goal of bringing gun owners together to celebrate and enjoy the community of Second Amendment supporters, while raising money to further defend our rights politically.

"I have never seen so many guns at an event – the GOC Crab Feed was amazing! Thanks for fighting for us."

~ Eric H.

Many of our volunteers travel with us to each event, to not only help GOC, but to be a part of a significant effort to activate, educate, and engage in the fight for our rights. We are indebted to our team of traveling supporters and we hope more patriots will consider their part in the fight.

We are eager to expand! We need volunteers and committees in different parts of the state who are willing and

able to participate on a committee, and who will also consider starting one. We need people to spearhead an event in their area, to reach businesses, family and friends, and to gather donations in order to raise more money to continue the ongoing fight for our rights.

Our Sacramento Crab Feed in May was an exceptional event with over 550 people and was only made possible by the incredible committee of patriots that worked for months to put on the successful event. Due to it's popularity, we will need to find a larger event location in the coming years! We even had members of our Vacaville committee join us in Sacramento, with even more joining our upcoming Oroville event.

Each person who becomes a member, buys a raffle ticket, or attends an event is contributing to the court cases, the committee testimonies, the pro-gun candidates, and beyond. But if you think you might be able to do more, will you?

For more information on joining, or even starting a fundraising committee in your area, please contact Julie Benson at julie@gunownersca.com.

How many ways can GOC say THANK YOU?

What a dynamic year this has been – GOC is deep in the trenches fighting for the 2nd Amendment and **our influence is expanding** every day. People are thirsty for change and no longer content to let the Left step over us and take over – thanks to you, **we are growing** and the momentum must continue!

You've heard it before – with the 2nd Amendment comes the hostility of the anti-gunners breathing down our neck in virtually every corner of the state and country. We are always at a crossroads, which is why we always need your help. As a grassroots, member funded organization, we are your most direct link to what's happening in California – and beyond.

Help us move the pro-gun agenda forward – in the courts, in the legislature and the elections! **JOIN US!**

GUN OWNERS
of California

TO: SENATOR H. L. RICHARDSON, (ret.)

YES! I want Gun Owners of California, Inc. to continue fighting for our 2nd Amendment rights. I understand the minimum donation of \$35.00 entitles me to full membership benefits.

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$35 Other \$ _____

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Gun Owners of California
Membership Benefits

- Regular newsletters informing members of pending legislation and issues affecting gun rights.
- Information alerts through our website, email.
- Voting records of all California Legislators.
- Access to all Legislators through our website.

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