

Burlington Free Press – opinion page

Many letters to the Free Press suggest that the 2nd Amendment was drafted to ensure that we have a well-armed militia and does not grant the right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms. Be reminded:

- The Supreme Court in **D.C v. Heller**, (2008), in which the **SCOTUS** held that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia.
- **McDonald v. Chicago** (2010), landmark decision of the **SCOTUS** that the right of an individual to "keep and bear arms", as protected under the Second Amendment, is incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment
- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (July 2017) struck down D.C.'s restrictions to possess or carry a gun for personal protection.

Some believe that the 2nd Amendment is outdated and should be repealed as the framers could not have envisioned today's modern firearms. The framers also could not have foreseen the internet, Face-Book, Twitter, etc. and how these things have contributed to civil disobedience, terrorism, bullying, election tampering, identity theft, etc. Should the 1st Amendment also be repealed because of a few nefarious individuals? Of course not.

When it comes to gun violence, we need to address the underlying reasons why these individuals misuse firearms, i.e. drugs, mental illness, violent video games, broken homes, etc., not the punitive disarming of law abiding citizens for the misdeeds of a few.

It is amazing that when a few deranged individuals commit crimes with a firearm, there is a cry to punish all gun owners because of those incorrigible few. Relative to the first Amendment, if a person yells "fire" in a crowded hall, there is not the same hue and cry to punish everyone at that event, or beyond. The bad guy is charged, and rightfully so. This same practice must definitively be applied to crimes relating to the 2nd Amendment as well.

There is a common uninitiated dialog that certain styles of firearms aren't needed for hunting so should be banned. The 2nd Amendment makes no mention of hunting or any other limitations.

We shouldn't forget that the 2nd Amendment was put in place to protect the 1st Amendment.

Bruce Lindner

90 Hillcrest lane
Colchester, VT 05446
802-863-6947