



1       therefore deprived by the laws of the District of Co-  
2       lumbia of handguns, rifles, and shotguns that are  
3       commonly kept by law-abiding persons throughout  
4       the United States for sporting use and for lawful de-  
5       fense of their persons, homes, businesses, and fami-  
6       lies.

7               (4) The District of Columbia has one of the  
8       highest per capita murder rates in the Nation, which  
9       may be attributed in part to previous local laws pro-  
10      hibiting possession of firearms by law-abiding per-  
11      sons who would have otherwise been able to defend  
12      themselves and their loved ones in their own homes  
13      and businesses.

14             (5) The Gun Control Act of 1968 (as amended  
15      by the Firearms Owners' Protection Act) and the  
16      Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act provide  
17      comprehensive Federal regulations applicable in the  
18      District of Columbia as elsewhere. In addition, exist-  
19      ing District of Columbia criminal laws punish pos-  
20      session and illegal use of firearms by violent crimi-  
21      nals and felons. Consequently, there is no need for  
22      local laws that only affect and disarm law-abiding  
23      citizens.

24             (6) On June 26, 2008, the Supreme Court of  
25      the United States in the case of *District of Columbia*

1        *v. Heller* held that the Second Amendment protects  
2        an individual's right to possess a firearm for tradi-  
3        tionally lawful purposes, and thus ruled that the  
4        District of Columbia's handgun ban and require-  
5        ments that rifles and shotguns in the home be kept  
6        unloaded and disassembled or outfitted with a trig-  
7        ger lock to be unconstitutional.

8            (7) On July 16, 2008, the District of Columbia  
9        enacted the Firearms Control Emergency Amend-  
10       ment Act of 2008 (D.C. Act 17-422; 55 DCR 8237),  
11       which places onerous restrictions on the ability of  
12       law-abiding citizens from possessing firearms, thus  
13       violating the spirit by which the Supreme Court of  
14       the United States ruled in *District of Columbia v.*  
15       *Heller*.

16           (8) On February 26, 2009, the United States  
17       Senate adopted an amendment on a bipartisan vote  
18       of 62-36 by Senator John Ensign to S. 160, the  
19       District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of  
20       2009, which would fully restore Second Amendment  
21       rights to the citizens of the District of Columbia.

22       (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
23       gress that active duty military personnel who are stationed  
24       or residing in the District of Columbia should be permitted  
25       to exercise fully their rights under the Second Amendment

1 to the Constitution of the United States and therefore  
2 should be exempt from the District of Columbia's restric-  
3 tions on the possession of firearms.

