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Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) joined with his fellow members of the House Second Amendment Task Force (SATF) in issuing a letter this week to both President Barack Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in opposition to any future attempt to reinstate a ban on the sale of assault weapons. Recent comments made by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder prompted the SATF to send the letter stating that any attempt to reinstate such a ban would be absolutely unacceptable and in violation of the Second Amendment.

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March 19, 2009

Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) joined with his fellow members of the House Second Amendment Task Force (SATF) in issuing a letter this week to both President Barack Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in opposition to any future attempt to reinstate a ban on the sale of assault weapons. Recent comments made by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder prompted the SATF to send the letter stating that any attempt to reinstate such a ban would be absolutely unacceptable and in violation of the Second Amendment.

"As a member of the bipartisan House Second Amendment Task force, I believe that all law abiding American citizens should be guaranteed the constitutional right to bear arms," said Congressman Childers. "The inaccurately described ‘assault weapons' ban is a failed policy that threatens the rights of gun owners nationwide, including hunters and sportsmen in Mississippi's First Congressional District. I hope that the Attorney General will reconsider his statements."

Although advocates of reinstating the ban argue it would reduce crime, studies have shown that deaths related to the use of assault weapons showed negligible difference during the ten-year period while the ban was in place. Furthermore, though the words "assault weapons" conjure images of a specific style of firearm, in fact the weapons outlawed by the original ban functioned the same as any semiautomatic, fully legal hunting rifle.

The Second Amendment Task Force, which is co-chaired by Congressmen Dan Boren and Paul Broun, was formed this year in the House to monitor how any legislation might affect gun ownership rights and to give gun owners a strong and focused voice in the 111th Congress. The bipartisan task force includes a group of Members from a wide spectrum of backgrounds that represent a large geographical area:

Democrats

Congressman Dan Boren (Co-Chair)

Congressman Jason Altmire

Congressman Travis Childers

Congressman Brad Ellsworth

Congressman Jim Matheson

Congressman Mike McIntyre

Republicans

Congressman Paul Broun (Co-Chair)

Congressman Rep. Rob Bishop

Congressman John Boozman

Congressman Steve King

Congressman Steve Scalise

Congressman John Carter

In July 2008, Congressman Childers introduced important legislation to protect Americans' Second Amendment rights by overturning emergency laws in Washington, D.C. that violated a Supreme Court decision to outlaw the city's gun ban. The Second Amendment Enforcement Act passed in the House with overwhelming bipartisan support in September.

The complete letters to President Obama and Speaker Pelosi are attached.

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