

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement of U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall

I have been a long supporter of the Constitutional right of people to keep and bear arms.

I oppose gun control as a means to control crime because it is not effective. Our Nation's Capital is a prime example of this fact. Washington, D.C. has prohibited the sale and ownership of all guns and yet it has one of the highest crime rates in the country.

Furthermore, a semi-automatic weapon ban will have no effect on crime because less than one percent of crimes are committed with these weapons. Gun control only punishes honest citizens who wish to own firearms for hunting or sporting activities or in order to protect one's home and family.

Thank you for contacting me to express your strong opposition to legislation that would ban semi-automatic weapons. I want you to know that I understand and share your concern about this matter.

I have been a long supporter of the Constitutional right of people to keep and bear arms. I oppose gun control as a means to control crime because it is not effective. Our Nation's Capital is a prime example of this fact. Washington, D.C. has prohibited the sale and ownership of all guns and yet it has one of the highest crime rates in the country. Furthermore, a semi-automatic weapon ban will have no effect on crime because less than one percent of crimes are committed with these weapons. Gun control only punishes honest citizens who wish to own firearms for hunting or sporting activities or in order to protect one's home and family.

H.R. 4092, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which the House of Representatives passed on April 21 did not contain a ban on semi-automatic weapons. However, the Senate omnibus crime bill does ban these guns. In order to address this issue before House and Senate Conference on the crime bill, the House will take up H.R. 4296, the "Assault Weapons Ban" later on this week. You can be sure that I will continue my strong opposition to efforts to restrict the Constitutionally guaranteed right to own firearms and I will oppose this legislation.

Again, thank you for contacting me about this important matter. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I may be of additional assistance to you in the future.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress