

work together. In fact, this bill incorporated two things—one, a recognition that we need to continue getting the supply of oil to make it from here to there, but second, we needed a sustainable revenue source to invest in R&D and to invest in implementing alternative energy projects. The energy plan of the Republicans, cooked up by Vice President CHENEY in secret, has been very good for the American oil companies, not for the American consumers.

So far this year, oil companies in a down economy have raked in \$44 billion in profits. That's seven times the amount of profits Big Oil brought in when President Bush was first sworn into office.

What has the energy plan done that the President pursues or that our colleagues on the other side pursue? \$4 gasoline. It's costing \$2,500 more to heat your homes.

Mr. President, it's time for us to work together and to get our colleagues in the Senate to pass that bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will address his remarks to the Chair.

NATIONAL CAPITAL SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1434 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 6842.

□ 1028

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6842) to require the District of Columbia to revise its laws regarding the use and possession of firearms as necessary to comply with the requirements of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, in a manner that protects the security interests of the Federal government and the people who work in, reside in, or visit the District of Columbia and does not undermine the efforts of law enforcement, homeland security, and military officials to protect the Nation's capital from crime and terrorism, with Mr. ALTMIRE (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, first and foremost, I think it is imperative that we understand that the security and safety of our Nation's capitol should be of vital importance to all Americans, not simply the residents of the District of Columbia.

My dear colleague and District of Columbia Representative, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON along with Congressman HENRY WAXMAN of California, drafted com-

prehensive and sensible firearm legislation which the Childers/Souder amendment not only eviscerates but allows residents and federal officials to places in immense danger.

CHILDERS/SOUDER AMENDMENT

The Childers/Souder Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute completely destroys the sensible Norton/Waxman Home Rule bill.

The dangerous consequences include:

No gun registration to let the police know who has guns and to trace guns used in crimes.

No regulation of guns, only a bare federal statute resulting in one of the most permissive gun laws in the Nation—post 9/11.

No age limit for possession of guns, including military-style weapons.

Permits a person who is voluntarily committed to a mental institution to own a gun the day after he gets out.

Federal law forbids a person to cross State lines to purchase a gun and bring it back, but this makes an exception uniquely for District residents to cross State lines to purchase guns and bring them back from Maryland and Virginia.

Requires a "gun show loophole," which avoids background checks in the nation's capital, i.e., District of Columbia residents can purchase weapons from private individuals and at gun shows without background checks.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District of Columbia (the District) is a local self-governing jurisdiction and the seat of the United States Government, with unique Federal responsibilities. It is here that the President, the Vice President, and many cabinet and other Federal officials reside.

Unregulated firearms in the capital would preclude the ability of the District Metropolitan Police Department to track guns through registration and otherwise help ensure that guns do not endanger Federal officials and employees, visiting dignitaries, and other individuals.

REVISION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIREARMS LAWS AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA V. HELLER

The revised firearm legislation requires the District within 6 months after enactment, to revise its laws governing the possession and use of firearms as necessary to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. It also amends the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 by adding a new section requiring the Mayor and the Council of the District to ensure that the District's firearms laws are consistent with *Heller*.

In *Heller*, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that the Second Amendment to the Constitution protects an individual's right to possess a firearm, irrespective of service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes such as self-defense within the home.

The decision in *Heller* affirmed the holding in *Parker v. District of Columbia*, wherein the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia declared three provisions of the District's Firearms Control Regulation Act to be unconstitutional: D.C. Code §7-2502.02, which generally barred the registration of handguns; §22-4504, which prohibited carrying a pistol without a license, insofar as that provision would prevent a registrant from moving a gun from one room to another within his or her home; and §7-2507.02, which required that all lawfully owned firearms be kept unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock or similar device.

Addressing the holding in *Parker*, the Supreme Court noted that the District's approach "totally bans handgun possession in the home." The Court then declared that the inherent right of self-defense is central to the Second Amendment right, and that the District's handgun ban amounted to a prohibition of an entire class of arms that has been overwhelmingly utilized by American society for that purpose.

The Court also struck down as unconstitutional the requirement that any lawful firearm in the home be disassembled or bound by a trigger lock, as such a requirement "makes it impossible for citizens to use arms for the core lawful purpose of self-defense."

FIREARMS AND YOUTH

Right here in America according to the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, Harvard School of Public Health approximately 2,500 black youth (aged 15-24) die annually from gun homicide, 950 Hispanic youths and 600 white youth. For gun suicides, it's about 1,600 white youths annually, 300 black youths and 200 Hispanic youths.

Between 20 percent and 50 percent of children in the United States are touched by violence, either as victims or, even more commonly, as witnesses. And sadly for every child killed by a gun, four are injured according to the national estimates of nonfatal firearm-related injuries by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

TEXAS

In the U.S., the leading cause of death for African-Americans ages 15-24 and 25-34 is homicide, with the overwhelming majority (90 percent and 87 percent, respectively) committed with firearms. Homicide is the second leading cause of death for African-Americans ages 10-14, with firearm-related deaths accounting for 70 percent of these deaths.

Every day in Texas someone dies or is severely injured as a result of gun violence. Texans die from suicide, accidents, and crime. In 2004, 2,342 people died from firearm-related injuries in Texas. We hear about these deaths every day: depressed teenagers and spouses taking their own lives, children finding a loaded gun at a friend's house, gun related crime, etc. We hear about it so often; we have become numb to it and feel nothing can be done.

FIREARMS

While we speak of dignitaries, members of Congress, and the executive—the fact is that it is our children that are most at risk. We cannot allow a vague interpretation of the Second Amendment to put our children at risk and move guns on our streets.

It is our young African-American and Hispanic men who are frequently caught up in this system. Among youth ages 15-24, firearms rank as the leading cause of death for African-Americans and the second leading cause of death for whites and Hispanic youth. With over 5,049 federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in Texas alone, how many more guns on our streets do we need?

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman I urge my colleagues to think about the safe of our children. Is there not already enough violence? For all the firearms in Afghanistan and Iraq is it helping them? Do more guns on our streets make them safer? I think we all know the answer is a resounding "no." I am not asking that we remove all firearms from the hands of every responsible and