



Exercising the Right

Brace Yourself

Fox News reported on January 14 about the Biden administration's latest attempts to encroach on the Second Amendment. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) published new rules on January 13 that made it much more difficult for gun owners to buy stabilizing braces for pistols. Pistol-stabilizing braces were invented more than a decade ago by a man who was attempting to help a disabled veteran fire his pistol with one hand. The brace was approved by the ATF in 2012 and has become a very popular accessory for gun owners.

The pistol brace attaches to the rear of the gun like a buttstock and has a strap or some other mechanism to attach to the shooter's forearm, assisting with stabilizing the pistol. Of course, it is possible to use a brace similar to a buttstock and fire the gun from one's shoulder.

Pistol braces ended up on the Biden administration's radar after a mass shooting in Boulder, Colorado, in which the gunman used a firearm with a stabilizing brace as a rifle, firing from the shoulder. The administration announced its plans to restrict accessory braces shortly after the shooting, and the ATF has now finalized a rule that requires gun owners to either remove stabilizing braces from a firearm, destroy them, surrender them to federal agents, or register guns using braces with the ATF as short-barreled rifles, which are heavily regulated.

Republicans reacted to the latest gun-grabbing antics by the Democrats with outrage. Representative Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) has publicly opposed this planned move since the Biden administration first announced its intent. He warned that the "rule jeopardizes the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners and disabled combat veterans, which is why I led Members of Congress in opposition.... I will continue to fight against the ATF's unconstitutional overreach that could turn millions of citizens into felons."

Pro-Second Amendment advocates also criticized the rule and made it known that they wouldn't be taking this lying down, and would be taking legal action. Erich Pratt, vice president of Gun Owners of America, defiantly stated, "This admin continues to find ways to attack gun owners. We will continue to work with our industry partners to amplify the disapproving voices in the firearms industry and [Gun Owners Foundation], our sister legal arm, will be filing suit in the near future."

Illinois Uprising

ABC News reported on January 13 that a Democratic governor's latest gun-control scheme might have just hit a roadblock. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker made national news by signing new anti-gun legislation making his state the ninth in the nation to ban so-called assault rifles. ABC News reported that 74 Illinois sheriff's departments have publicly proclaimed their intentions to not enforce the law.

The uprising began after the Illinois Sheriffs' Association published a statement explaining how they would oppose the law. This was soon followed by similar statements being released by county sheriffs from all over the state who complained that the state Legislature was forcing Chicago-style gun control on the rest of the state. The *Chicago Sun-Times* reported on January 23 about pro-Second Amendment remarks made by DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick, who is the sheriff of the largest county in the state. "Therefore, as the custodian of the jail and chief law enforcement official for DuPage County ...



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on February 7, 2023

Published in the February 27, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 04

neither myself nor my office will be checking to ensure that lawful gun owners register their weapons with the State, nor will we be arresting or housing law abiding individuals that have been charged solely with non-compliance of this Act,” Sheriff Mendrick wrote in a released statement.

Jefferson County Sheriff Jeff Bullard, Sr. posted a video to the office’s Facebook page stating that the act violated the Second Amendment and that his office “will not be enforcing it in this county; I will also not house anyone in my jail that has violated this act because we know it to be an unlawful act by the general assembly and the governor.”

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell told ABC News that the “law will have zero impact on the murder rate in the state of Illinois.”

Governor Pritzker has stated that there would be repercussions against any members of law enforcement who don’t enforce his gun-control dictates.

The Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA), along with the Firearms Policy Coalition, Inc. and the Second Amendment Foundation, has filed a lawsuit against the new act. Executive director of ISRA Richard Pearson explained, “Governor Pritzker and the legislators who voted for this law did this for self-serving political purposes and are not upholding the United States Constitution.... The 2nd Amendment is fundamentally about self-defense, and the 14th Amendment is about not having our rights infringed. This new law makes criminals out of law-abiding citizens.”

Family Man to the Rescue

WMBB reported out of Bay County, Florida, on January 10 about a father who defended his wife and children against a suspected burglar who broke in to their home. The incident unfolded in the early hours of the morning when the mother heard a sound and went to investigate. The woman was horrified to discover an intruder in her house, so she yelled to her husband for help. The husband armed himself and confronted the suspect, and the two got into a physical altercation.

The scuffle didn’t last long, as the father shot the intruder and mortally wounded him. The family called 911 and police arrived on the scene. Bay County sheriff’s deputies told WMBB that the husband and wife and their children did not sustain any injuries during the ordeal. The suspect, who was pronounced dead at the scene, was later identified as 23-year-old Aaron Mravic-Lollie. Mravic-Lollie had a criminal record and was recently arrested for trespassing in Miami-Dade County. The Bay County Sheriff’s Office released a public statement on January 13 that, after a thorough review, “Authorities have determined the shooting was a justifiable use of force.”



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