

Hello, my name is Don Macalady and I am a member of a group of hunters and gun owners who are concerned about the proliferation of guns and gun violence in our country. We believe that gun ownership involves responsibility for gun safety and careful use of firearms. Hunters are required to provide proof that they have taken a "hunter safety" course that involves instruction in the handling and safe use of firearms. It is unlawful while hunting to carry a loaded hunting weapon in a vehicle. Protest and efforts to "repeal" these regulations of firearms are seldom, if ever, made. So, it seems that some regulation of firearms use is acceptable to everyone.

I find it difficult to believe that the proposal for concealed carry of guns that is unlimited and unregulated, is being seriously considered. Proponents claim that this will increase the safety of us all, even in the knowledge that intentional and accidental discharge of firearms causes injury and death to thousands of persons annually. From suicides to homicides, from accidents caused by the availability of firearms to children, from tragic escalations of domestic violence to mass murders....all will be amplified by the increases in the concealed carrying of weapons that this proposed law will facilitate.

Proponents of this and other legislative efforts to make gun availability totally unlimited and unregulated, claim that they are defending the Second Amendment. This is completely inconsistent with the meaning and intention of the Second Amendment, as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court. In fact, absence of reasonable regulation of the use and ownership of firearms is likely to have the opposite effect. If the Second Amendment is ever repealed, and I certainly hope it is not, the cause will not be because of efforts toward sensible regulation of gun use and availability, it will be because the proliferation of weapons and their violent use against people convinces an

angry public that gun ownership should not be protected by the Constitution.

In addition, I must ask, what kind of people are we becoming, when a significant fraction of Americans believe that the spread of deadly weapons is the only way to prevent violence towards each other? Surely, we are better than this!