

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1201**

Statement of Bill Sali  
Oversight and Government Reform Committee  
Hearing on "Impact of Proposed Legislation on the District of Columbia's  
Gun Laws"  
September 9, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Davis, I want to thank you for calling this important hearing about the "Impact of Proposed Legislation on the District of Columbia's Gun Laws."

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 6691, "The Second Amendment Enforcement Act," I am pleased that such a strong bipartisan bill has come forward to recognize the Second Amendment rights of Washington, D.C. residents.

This important legislation is in direct response to the D.C. City Council passing emergency laws that disregard the Supreme Court's ruling in the District of Columbia v. Heller case by creating other new restrictions on District residents' rights. I am concerned the new restrictions also violate the Constitution and the clear meaning of the Second Amendment as drafted by our Founding Fathers.

Our Founders intended that firearm ownership is an individual right for law-abiding citizens -- a right that, in part, helps law-abiding Americans defend their lives, families and property through the possession and use of firearms. With the Heller case, the right to keep and bear arms is now indisputably an individual right. Congress must be vigilant to safeguard the Second Amendment, which should mean the same thing today that it did at the birth of our nation.

The Second Amendment should not be abridged by the D.C. City Council's anti-gun regulations. We all took an oath to uphold the Constitution, including both responsibilities for the District of Columbia as well as upholding the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment states in part, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." Defending that provision is a matter of obligation on the part of this body.

The D.C. emergency laws need to be brought in line with Heller decision and this legislation will do exactly that. The bill has broad bipartisan support, and deserves a vote on the House Floor promptly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to today's hearing.