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Don't debate Brady Bill — abolish it, Libertarian Party tells Supreme Court

Which bureaucrats will violate your rights: State or federal?

WASHINGTON, DC — The Supreme Court should abolish the Brady Bill rather than struggling to decide which government officials will enforce it, the Libertarian Party said today.

“The highest court in the land shouldn't be dividing up the power to violate the Bill of Rights between federal, state, and local bureaucrats,” said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party chairman. “Instead, it's the Supreme Court's responsibility to *defend* the Second Amendment — and every other basic civil right — against usurpation by government.”

In arguments before the Supreme Court this week, sheriffs from Arizona and Montana challenged the Brady Bill as an unconstitutional infringement on state and local governmental authority. The legislation, signed into law in 1993, requires local governments to conduct criminal background checks on handgun purchasers and mandates a five-day waiting period.

“The justices could have used this case as a chance to reaffirm the Constitutional right to keep and bear arms,” said Dasbach. “Instead, they let the case degenerate into a legalistic argument over which government agency — state or federal — is best equipped to violate that right. But the question isn't whether to delegate such power to a state bureaucrat or a federal one. It's whether the court will recognize that rights belong to *people*, not to the government.”

The high court's refusal to stand up for the Second Amendment is particularly disturbing, said Dasbach, because gun control isn't just unconstitutional — it also doesn't work.

For example, he noted, proponents of the Brady Bill claim that criminal background checks kept guns out of the hands of 100,000 felons. But according to the U.S. Department of Justice, only seven people who failed the background check were brought to trial — and only three served time in prison.

“That either means the Brady Bill put 99,997 felons back out on the streets to terrorize innocent Americans, or that many of these 100,000 people were actually law-abiding citizens erroneously identified as felons,” Dasbach said. “Either way, the Brady Bill is a failure.”

In fact, the supposed targets of the law — criminals — seem to be the only ones unbothered by it, Dasbach said. As evidence, he pointed to a recent Justice Department survey of convicted felons showing that 93% had obtained their guns illegally.

“The evidence is clear: The Brady Bill doesn't work — and the Supreme Court should abolish it,” said Dasbach.

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