



New State lead regulations will target shooting ranges

The Washington Department of Labor and Industries Division of Occupational Safety & Health (DOSH) has released an [updated draft](#) of the lead rules originally released last year following stakeholder meetings. These proposed regulations will impose complicated and expensive burdens on shooting ranges and retailers, potentially making it difficult for some to continue operations. DOSH will be holding additional meetings to discuss these proposed regulations. Shooting ranges are vital to the safe practice and exercise of our constitutionally protected Second Amendment right to self-defense, and maintaining access to shooting ranges is a top priority for NRA.

Existing federal and state law already provides extensive regulation of lead in the workplace. In addition to the federal requirements under the Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Washington also has regulations in place regarding workplace lead exposure and has enforced these regulations through inspections and citations. This draft regulation proposes new and much more demanding requirements that significantly exceed compliance under existing law without providing any clarification on their need. There have been no economic impact studies on the effect these regulations will have on small businesses.

NRA-ILA 6/28 (www.nra-ila.org)

Democratic Candidates Call the Firearms Industry "The Enemy"

Last week, from the Democratic primary debate stage, former Vice President Joe Biden said we were the enemy. "Our enemy is the gun manufacturers, not the NRA, the gun manufacturers," Biden said. Not a single candidate on stage that night, or the night before, condemned the remark. Their silence is tacit agreement. Not a single candidate had the courage to name the violent criminals as the problem or the fortitude to stand up to those who prey upon the vulnerable in our society. Instead, they are blaming us as an industry and the law-abiding gun owners we serve. We will need all member companies to be engaged and ensure our industry is able to conduct the lawful business of providing firearms to the more than 100 million law-abiding American gun owners in every state for legal use, including recreational shooting, hunting and self-defense. Every Democratic candidate is now gunning for an industry that supports 312,000 jobs earning \$15.7 billion in wages and has a total economic impact over \$52 billion. The firearms industry is an integral economic contributor, having paid more than \$6.8 billion in total taxes in 2019 alone. The firearms industry is the fabric of America. These are American jobs in every corner of the nation. Our industry is the "Arsenal of Democracy," a phrase coined by Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt, supplying the firearms that our armed forces and brave men and women of law enforcement use to protect our nation and keep our communities safe. Candidates on the stage, including former Vice President Biden, agreed with the far-fetched notion of mass confiscation of firearms, a plan first proposed by Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.). Biden said, "I would buy back those weapons." That plan would use the tax dollars paid by law-abiding gun owners to confiscate the more than 16 million modern sporting rifles in private ownership today under threat of criminal penalty for noncompliance. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) defended firearms confiscation as legal. "That's not confiscation," she said. "You would give them the offer to buy back the gun," without reference to criminal penalties.

Biden's firearms industry animus went further. He would bar all firearms sales, except those equipped with "biometric" authorized-user technology. "No gun should be able to be sold unless your biometric measure could pull that trigger," he explained. We know now today's reality is that every Democratic candidate views firearms ownership as unacceptable. The lines are clearly drawn.

Joe Bartozzi, National Shooting Sports Foundation, 7/2 (www.nssf.org)

The next generation of Second Amendment supporters

One of the most important things Second Amendment supporters can do to preserve freedom is to make sure that respect and support for our freedoms is passed down to future generations. Thankfully, there is a new generation of Second Amendment defenders arising, thanks to the work of a number of organizations. **Students for Concealed Carry** has been one of these organizations. Perhaps the most prominent voice to come from it is Antonia Okafor. When anti-Second Amendment extremists try to paint defenders of the Second Amendment with certain terms, Okafor can readily shoot that down, and has the potential to make those extremists look like liars. In fact, Ms. Okafor is just part of something we are seeing in some other groups that support the Second Amendment, notably Turning Point USA: The next generation of Second Amendment defenders is diverse. We're seeing African Americans like Ms. Okafor, Candace Owens (former communications director at TPUSA), 2018 and 2020 U.S. Senate candidate John James, rapper/fashion designer Kanye West, and NRATV's Colin Noir. Hispanic Americans like TPUSA's Anna Paulina and NRATV's Gabby Franco are also prominently defending the Second Amendment.

Even the Washington Post had to acknowledge that there are members of the LGBTQ community who support our right to keep and bear arms. Just the fact that one member of that community works on the NRA's social media will start conversations, and those are opportunities to change minds. **Turning Point USA** has been doing very well in providing a platform and a voice that is getting a message that includes support of the Second Amendment out to people in communities that traditional Second Amendment advocacy has had difficulty connecting with. In this sense, they have put the NRA to shame.

NRA University is quietly establishing a presence on campus, even as it has been overshadowed by Students for Concealed Carry and Turning Point USA. This helps prepare young activists to defend the Second Amendment. The National Rifle Association also features the NRA Collegiate Coalition and employs Campus Coordinators. While many of those involved in these programs are not household names like Ms. Okafor yet, you can bet they will be involved in the defense of our freedoms in the future. Defending the Second Amendment in schools can be a tough row to hoe, and you can bet hostile administrators and teachers will look for excuses to wreck the future of a high school or college student for supporting the Second Amendment. However, looking over these groups of young pro-Second Amendment activists, it is safe to assume that the fight for the Second Amendment is in very good hands for the future.

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