



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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CHAIRMAN MENDELSON CRITICIZES THREAT TO DISTRICT GUN LAWS

WASHINGTON, DC – Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, responded to the proposed amendment by Senator Rand Paul that would eviscerate the District’s gun control measures. "Once again, the safety of District residents is being jeopardized by a reckless proposal that disregards our country’s national security and is aimed solely at scoring political points," Mendelson stated.

Among its provisions, the “Defend Our Capital Act of 2015” would repeal most of the District’s existing gun regulations including repeal of registration requirements. It would also remove the authority of the District government to regulate guns. In recent months, similar proposals have been put forth by other presidential candidates seeking to utilize the District to score political points.

"Given the recent tragic events in San Bernardino and Paris, and so many other gun violence incidents that we continue to grieve over—Sandy Hook, Fort Bragg, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, and at the Navy Yard here in the District—this proposal seems oblivious to our own safety concerns in an effort to politicize a human tragedy," Mendelson stated.

"To suggest that this proposal is about the Second Amendment is misleading, and to suggest that it is a means of “defending” the Capital makes a mockery of District residents’ legitimate safety concerns," Mendelson continued. “Federal courts have upheld our registration law, and our very recent gun-carry law was modeled after other states' laws that have been found constitutional by federal appeals courts.”

"Neither citizens nor the Capital will be safer if the “Defend Our Capital Act of 2015” is ever adopted," stated Mendelson.

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