

For those with Internet Connection

- **Government Printing Office's complete resource guide to official information all three branches of the Federal Government. The nice thing about this website is that it provides information about all bills and the "how to's" for tracking legislation.**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>

Guide to U. S. Government for Kids – but a very insightful piece of information!

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>

How Laws are Made:

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/lawmaking/index.html>

How to Track Legislation on the GPO Access website:

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/lawmaking/hr408.html>

- **A research tool sponsored by a citizen, not the government:**

<http://www.govtrack.us/users/>

If you wish to actually track bills as they go through committees and the House and Senate, they have a "Using Trackers" page which shows you how to customize your tracking events.

You can track by a list of general trackers, subject areas, members of Congress, bills, and Congressional committees. You can sign up for email updates so that your tracked events will be sent to you automatically. At the website when you register and set up your trackers, you will see all of your trackers on your customized page.

For instance, I chose HR 45: Blair Holt Firearm bill. Here is what the information looks like that they provide:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-45>

I notice they they are looking for people to sign the group letter against this bill based on a letter written collaboratively by 450 visitors to this page! It was their **first experiment in using a particular writing tool to write, edit and rate letters** opposing HR 45. Over 214 drafts were considered, and the following letter was the result of all of the members input:

*The following is a group letter, not a petition. It was **written collaboratively by 454 individuals** over the course of six weeks. This is the result of a first-of-its-kind experiment in modernizing constituent communication with Congress run by the nonpartisan website GovTrack.us using the letter writing tool MixedInk.com. For more about the letter writing process, see below the letter.*

Dear Representatives,

WE THE PEOPLE DO NOT SUPPORT H.R.45, the Firearm Licensing bill (2009).

WE are tired of our rights being denigrated and destroyed.

Our vote for any such bill is NO! Further, any politician who votes for this bill or any bill of this type will be noted, and voted against when they come up for re-election.

There are currently over 20,000 existing gun laws on the books and most of them do nothing to stop or curtail criminals. Reducing restrictions to lawful gun ownership, however, have proven to do just that. Statistics are clear. Where ever lawful gun ownership flourishes, crime rates, by whatever measure, are reduced. In states with lawful handgun carry laws, crime rates are lower. The rate of crimes committed by lawful owners of firearms is a very small percentage of the overall rate of crimes committed with firearms and those numbers are undeniable. The federally required NICS is an excellent tool in determining the eligibility of an individual to legally purchase a handgun or rifle. In the city of Kennesaw, Ga., just outside of Atlanta, it is required by law that every home have a gun. After that law was passed in 1982, the crime rate immediately dropped by 89% and has remained among the lowest in the state ever since. Instance after instance shows that high legal gun ownership relates to lower crime, and places that make it hard to own guns or ban them altogether relates to a higher crime rate. Look at many of the larger, supposedly progressive cities and states in the northeastern U.S. Many have some of the highest rates of gun crime there are simply because the criminals know there is little chance of being confronted by a law abiding gun owner.

Stop criminalizing the lawful and law abiding gun owners. The studies by Department of Justice themselves show that these such weapons are used in a statistically insignificant portion of crime. And when they are used, their use would not have been prevented by the legislation.

History and statistics both prove that such bills are destructive to the citizenry. If this bills' purpose is to truly "protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury and death" then the Congress should realize that the only threats to the public are from a criminal element that this bill (unlike others that already exist and are not enforced) will not address, and from the government itself. We would like to think it would not happen here, but as the government is getting larger, and the people weaker, we should always consider history.

** In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated. This doesn't include the 30 million "Uncle Joe" starved to death in the Ukraine.*

** In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.*

** Germany established gun control in 1928. In 1938, the Nazis extended that control to ban the possession of military style weapons and to outlaw the sale of any weapons without government approval. (This sounds a lot like some of the current gun control efforts being pushed for in our country today.) From 1939 to 1945, the Gestapo & SS killed millions of people unable to defend themselves.*

** China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up & exterminated.*

** Guatamala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up & exterminated.*

** Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up & exterminated. The total dead are said to be 2-3 million.*

** Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, 1-2 million "educated" people unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.*

** Defenseless people rounded up & exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 56 million at a bare minimum.*

** During W.W. II the Japanese decided not to invade America because they knew most Americans were ARMED.*

Note: Admiral Yamamoto, who crafted the attack on Pearl Harbor, had attended Harvard University from 1919 to 1921 and was a Naval Attache to the U.S. from 1925-28. Most of our Navy was destroyed at Pearl Harbor, and our Army had been deprived of funding and was ill prepared to defend the country. It was reported that when asked why Japan did not follow up the Pearl Harbor attack with an invasion of the U.S. Mainland, his reply was that he had lived in the U.S. and knew that almost all households had guns.

** Gun owners in Australia were forced by new law to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed by their own government, a program costing Australia taxpayers more than \$500 million dollars. The first year results: Australia-wide, homicides went up 3.2 percent; Australia-wide, assaults went up 8.6 percent; Australia-wide, armed robberies went up 44 percent (yes, 44 percent). While figures over the previous 25 years showed a steady DECREASE in armed robbery with firearms, that changed drastically upward in the first year after gun confiscation... since criminals now are guaranteed that their prey is unarmed; There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults on the Elderly. Australian politicians are at a loss to explain how public safety has decreased, after such monumental effort & expense was expended in successfully ridding Australian society of guns. The Australian experience and the other historical facts above prove it.*

With guns.... We are "citizens".

Without Them.... We are "subjects".

WE THE PEOPLE do not give our government the right to track our every movement and location, registration of our personal property, track commerce of our personal property, keep our personal identification information (or property {whether firearms or ammunition} or possessions) in a federal or state database, the federal government to run laws in our state or local municipalities, or confiscate our firearms for any reason. We are not criminals, and WE THE PEOPLE do not give the government the right to treat us as such.

- **Website providing information concerning current bills and appointments.**

Active Legislation for the 111th Congress – updated each day and every 20 minutes

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/b_three_sections_with_teasers/active_leg_page.htm

When you click on a specific bill, it takes you to a page where it lists the sponsor and cosponsors. For instance, I clicked on “HR 1586,” which is under B-Active Legislation, Bonus Tax Bill, impose 90% tax on TARP bonuses.

It took me to:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:H.R.1586>: It was there that I discovered that Charlie Rangel sponsored the bill.

All the cosponsors are listed, and the latest major action is listed for that bill.

As an aside – I knew that Charlie Rangel had the audacity, along with Maxine Waters and Gregory Meeks, to defend Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in October of 2005. They were defending the very person who helped bring Fannie Mae down.

<http://speaknowamerica.org/2008/10/01/raines-waters-meeks-rangel-and-fannie-mae-freddie-mac-form-a-common-thread-to-economic-collapse.aspx>

In this bill, he is punishing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac with the 90% tax, but another amendment has exempted them from this tax (?).

<http://lawhawk.blogspot.com/2009/04/fannie-mae-and-freddie-mac-doled-out.html>

Of course, this is the bill which has been interpreted as “unconstitutional.” Here is an article explaining why it is unconstitutional.

http://boortz.com/nealz_nuze/2009/03/the-house-gets-its-bonus-tax-u.html

What REALLY surprised me was finding this information on the MSNBC site! Someone must not have been checking the content on this page!

<http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2009/03/20/1846610.aspx>

This guy even cites James Madison in the Federalist Papers!!

In researching information about TARP, I ran across this humorous presentation which was meant to show the folly of TARP on a very serious website (which is a business and litigation site):

<http://www.bankbryancave.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/tarp-in-pictures.pdf>

- **Website providing information on all current legislation PLUS provides sample letters on specific legislation PLUS provides easy way to email your legislators with your zip code PLUS email alerts you can sign up for**

<http://www.afa.net/>

Click on Activism, and click on the “AFA Action Alerts.” This will take you to the main legislative page, where you can find the Featured Alert, along with a section on the left with the topics:

Current Action Alert
Legislative Action Center
Elected Officials
Issues and legislation
Guide to the Media

There are also a Find Your Officials section, followed by Policy tools. Across the banner on top of the Featured Alert are sections called Home, Elected Officials, Issues, Election, and Media.

Under Elected Officials, you have direct access to Congressional Directory, President, Agencies, and the Supreme Court.

Under Issues, you have Legislative Alerts and Updates, Current Legislation, Key Votes, and Capitol Hill Basics.

Under Election, you have a Directory, My Races, Alerts, Spotlights, and Register to Vote.

When you click on specific legislation, you are provided either a sample letter or talking points for a telephone call to the correct senators or representative.

The nicest thing I have found about this site: You can sign up for AFA Action alerts which will send an email to you concerning specific bills that you need to contact your legislators about. You can also sign up for MegaVote (<http://capwiz.com/fof/megavote/>) which allows you to receive weekly emails giving you your legislators’ votes for that week.

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<http://www.citizenlink.org/>

When you click on “Citizenlink” on the banner at the top, you will see tabs similar to those on the AFA website. There are tabs for Elected Officials, Issues and Legislation, Elections and Candidates, and media Guide.

This site apparently works off of the same “capwiz” capabilities as the AFA website does. It also has the MegaVote option (<http://capwiz.com/fof/megavote/>) to sign up for the weekly email giving you your legislators’ votes for that week.

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<http://www.freedomworks.org/>

You will see a box to the right near the top called “A Million for Freedom.” The membership total is in that box. You can either click on “Join” at the very top of the page, or click on the **second** “A Million for Freedom” box at the bottom right. When you register, you can receive regular email alerts if you check the box, and you can also choose which areas of legislation you are interested in.

When you click on “Take Action,” you will see a number of issues. Click on one of the issues under “Action Alert – Contact Congress,” and it will take you a page similar to www.citizenInks.com with issues and sample letters, using your zip code to locate your legislators.

When you click on the issue, you can choose to either respond to that issue, or you can click on Legislative Alerts and Updates, Current Legislation, Key Votes, or Capitol Hill Basics.

All of these sites seem to offer additional information not covered by another, which is why I use all of these sites.

- **Website providing information on some current bills, and provides a way for participants to vote on bills, and see the feedback from others across the country who have registered on the website**

<http://www.thepeopledecide.us/>

Pro: Your legislators come up automatically once you login

Drawbacks: you have to register to obtain information on this site
It has Cynthia Lummis’ name, but Barbara Cubins picture on it – have not verified all the other info listed on the page
Does not provide sample letter to legislators (but, it says it is a nonpartisan site)
Does not allow you to email all the Senators at once – you must go to each legislator’s site and register all your info and write your email

It seems there are some interesting tabs there giving different information from the other sites, such as feedback on what other registered members have viewed and voted on.

- **Americans for Tax Reform**

<http://www.atr.org/>

This site provides massive amounts of information concerning everything going on with taxes. It gives you much information you can use to write your legislators – such as the one I found today on the Waxman-Market Clean Energy bill.

I will be posting the letter I sent to our legislators based on information from that website and some global warming information from another website later on our www.wyo912project.com site.

- **Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (“The Common Sense Gun Lobby”)**

<http://www.ccrkba.org/>

Pro: It lists nearly all the gun bills
It links to the senators and representatives

Con: I received an email alert from Human Events@humaneventsonline.com – which forwarded the info from CCRKBA as one of their advertisers - concerning a bill (which after searching, found out it was S. 843), but that information is not listed on their website yet! It may just be too new for their news releases on their front page. The email alert contained excellent information to use in an email I sent to our senators.

Legislators would have to be contacted individually

- **Pro-life site providing information on legislation and appointees:**

<http://www.sba-list.org>

Their mission statement:

Representing Pro-Life Women

The Susan B. Anthony List’s mission is at the nerve center of the pro-life movement and political process. Advancing, mobilizing and representing pro-life women directly contradicts the claim that abortion is a woman’s right and the premise that abortion somehow liberates women. To accomplish our ultimate goal of ending abortion in this country, we know that activating more pro-life women in the political and legislative arenas is critical.

Our five-point mission reflects a renewed strategy at every level necessary to save lives and change the course of history:

1. **Train** pro-life and political activists, campaign staff, and candidates in the fundamentals of running successful grassroots and political campaigns.
2. **Advocate** the passage of pro-life legislation in Congress.
3. **Dispel** the myths about abortion through the media.
4. **Identify, educate and mobilize** women voters to vote pro-life.
5. **Elect** more women to Congress through our connected Candidate Fund. The Susan B. Anthony List Candidate Fund assists pro-life women candidates and works to defeat pro-abortion women candidates and incumbents who are opposing pro-life men.

Our organization is named after the suffragette Susan B. Anthony. Anthony was an outspoken critic of abortion, even calling abortion “child murder.” Although she is known for helping women win the right to vote, it is often untold in history that she and most early feminists were strongly pro-life.

- **Direct link to the current causes they have identified:**

http://www.sbalist.org/c.ddJBKJNsFqG/b.4148019/k.9FFF/Contact_Congress/siteapps/advocacy/ActionCenter.aspx

For those with No Internet Connection

The best way to keep up with current legislation without an internet connection is:

- Watch Fox News – the regular news shows give some information, and Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity, Bill O'Reilly, and Greta Van Susteren have some information on their shows
- 1030 AM Radio shows – Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Glenn Beck have current information on their shows