

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to pass the Sense of the
2 Council Against the A Gun Amendment on the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act.
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4 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
5 resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council Against a Gun Amendment on the District of
6 Columbia Voting Rights Act Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2010".
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8 Sec. 2. (a) Within the past week it has been reported that the United States House of
9 Representatives will take up consideration of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act, which
10 would give the District of Columbia a voting member of the House of Representatives.

11 (b) However, it has been reported that an effort will be made to amend the bill similar to the
12 so-called Ensign amendment adopted by the United States Senate on February 26, 2009, which
13 would restrict the Council's authority to legislate laws or regulations that restrict the private
14 ownership or use of firearms, and the amendment would repeal major portions of the District's
15 firearms regulation law codified at D.C. Official Code § 7-2501 *et seq.*

16 (c) Because the Congress may consider the amendment this week, it is important that the
17 Council act immediately to express its view regarding the proposed amendment.

18 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
19 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Sense
20 of the Council Against a Gun Amendment on the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act Emergency
21 Resolution of 2010 be adopted on an emergency basis.

22 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To declare the Sense of the Council that the United States Congress must not adopt any amendment
2 to the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act restricting the District government's ability
3 to legislate the regulation of firearms, or repealing the Firearms Registration Amendment Act
4 of 2008.

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6 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
7 resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council Against a Gun Amendment on the District of
8 Columbia Voting Rights Act Emergency Resolution of 2010".

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10 Sec. 2. (a) On March 3, 2009 the Council adopted Resolution 18-57 stating that "the United
11 States Congress must not adopt any amendment to the voting Rights Act that restricts the District
12 government's ability to legislate the regulation of firearms, or that repeals D.C. Act 17-708, the
13 Firearms Registration Amendment Act of 2008."

14 (b) Within the past week it has been reported that the United States House of Representatives
15 will take up consideration of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act, which would give the
16 District of Columbia a voting member of the House of Representatives, and an effort will be made
17 to add an amendment to the bill that would be similar to the so-called Ensign amendment adopted
18 by the United States Senate on February 26, 2009, which would restrict the Council's authority to
19 legislate laws or regulations that restrict the private ownership or use of firearms and would repeal
20 major portions of the District's firearms regulation law codified at D.C. Official Code § 7-2501 *et*
21 *seq.*

22 (c) The Council reiterates its support for voting representation in both houses of the United
23 States Congress.

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(d) The Council also reiterates its opposition to any amendment that would restrict the Council’s authority to legislate laws or regulations that restrict the private ownership or use of firearms or that would repeal major portions of the District’s firearms regulation law codified at D.C. Official Code § 7-2501 *et seq.* The Council reiterates its position articulated in Resolution 18-57.

(e) Last year the District experienced the fewest recorded homicides since 1966. There was a 23 percent drop in homicides involving guns relative to 2008.

(f) On March 26, 2010 the United States District Court for the District of Columbia held that the District’s revised gun regulations complied with the United States Constitution and the Supreme Court’s decision in *Heller v. District of Columbia*.

(g) On March 30, 2010 the District suffered the worst mass shooting in almost two decades when nine young adults were shot. Four of the victims were murdered, the youngest being a 16-year-old girl. The murder weapons – an assault rifle and semi-automatic pistols – are currently illegal, but would be rendered legal by the reported Congressional amendment.

(h) The Chief of Police has testified before the Council that repealing the District’s firearms regulation law would impede the Metropolitan Police Department’s ability to confront violence, and violence would likely increase.

(i) Gun regulation is especially important in the District given the presence of all elected federal government officials as well as the diplomatic community, and given that the District is a known target for terrorism.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council of the District of Columbia that the United States Congress must not adopt any amendment to the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act that restricts the District government’s ability to legislate the regulation of firearms, or that repeals D.C. Law 17-372, the Firearms Registration Amendment Act of 2008.

Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and to the majority and minority leaders of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

