



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
July 9, 2009

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McMaster Joins Effort to Protect Second Amendment Rights

Amicus Brief Filed by 33 State Attorneys General

Columbia – South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster has joined a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court that defends the right to keep and bear arms. The amicus brief, which was filed on behalf of thirty-three (33) state attorneys general, supports a legal challenge by Otis McDonald, a community activist who lives in a high-crime Chicago neighborhood. McDonald’s work to improve his neighborhood has subjected him to violent threats from drug dealers, but city ordinances prohibit him from obtaining a handgun to protect himself. The state attorneys general argue that cities cannot simply ignore the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and impose a blanket ban on handguns.

“Last year, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the District of Columbia’s handgun ban and held that the Second Amendment protects individual Americans’ right to keep and bear arms,” McMaster said. “South Carolina urges the nation’s highest court to hear Mr. McDonald’s challenge to an ordinance that prohibits him from possessing a handgun to protect himself from the criminals in his high-crime neighborhood.”

Read the brief: <http://www.nraila.org/media/PDFs/litigation/NRAAmicusFinal.pdf>

According to the states’ amicus brief, the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution applies to states under the Fourteenth Amendment, and the right to keep and bear arms is a right that states have long recognized. Forty-four (44) state constitutions protect their residents’ right to bear arms.

The states’ amicus brief acknowledges that some firearms regulations are permissible, including in circumstances where they are necessary to prevent violent felons from owning guns.

The states that joined the amicus brief are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

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