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September 27, 2004

H.R. 3193 WOULD "MAKE D.C. STAND FOR DODGE CITY"

Editorial, NYT (9/14/04)

Dear Colleague:

At a time when serious bills are floundering for lack of attention, the House Republican leadership is demanding a vote on a bill that was never marked-up in committee and is guaranteed to endanger our nation's capital.

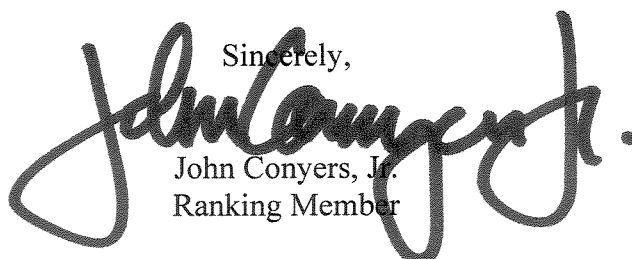
H.R. 3193 repeals D.C. laws that restrict the possession of firearms in Washington, D.C. **Under this extremist legislation, it would actually become legal to possess loaded semiautomatic assault weapons in the nation's capitol city.**

Major newspapers see this bill for the travesty that it is, and I hope you will, too. For example:

- The *Washington Post* editorial page calls the legislation "offensive and opportunistic," noting that "[j]ustifiable concerns that repeal of the city's gun laws would worsen violence on D.C. streets have fallen on deaf ears in the U.S. Capitol. House Republicans, if they have their way, would just as soon turn the nation's capital into a free-fire zone - and for cheap political reasons." (9/15/04)
- The *New York Times* calls the bill a "brazen insult" to D.C., noting that "a majority of lawmakers, sworn to 'insure domestic tranquillity' for the nation, would make D.C. stand for Dodge City." Noting that the bill would likely fail in the Senate, the *New York Times* still found it "no less sickening that House Republican leaders have scheduled this cheap shootout before Election Day in order to secure votes back home, out beyond the lethal urban reality of Washington." (9/19/04)
- Even the hometown paper of the bill's author, Rep. Mark Souder, questions his priorities. The *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* wrote that the "District of Columbia has banned handguns, but Souder thinks the federal government should step in and overturn this local decision because Souder knows what's better for residents of the District of Columbia than they do.... Perhaps Souder is unaware of the 14 children who have been gunned down in Washington this year." (9/21/04)

Please join me in voting **NO** on H.R. 3139.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member