

The recent case of Rochester Institute of Technology students who had a legal AR-15 military style rifle in their possession, in their apartment and scared off two armed men who had broken into their apartment is why legal weapons should remain to be allowed to be owned. Before you jump on the emotionally charged bandwagon for gun-control, take a moment to reflect on the real purpose of the second amendment. People have the right to take up arms in defense of themselves, their families and property in the face of invading armies or an oppressive government. Then Second Amendment was written by people who fled oppressive and tyrannical regimes in Europe, and refers to the right of American Citizens to be armed for defense purposes if such tyranny should rise in the United States. Human nature does not change. Whatever behaviors of people were in colonial times can be evident centuries later. Evil exists in our world and always will. Christians pray to be delivered from evil. Good people will abide by the law and defective people will always try to get around the law and make nice people victims of crime. There is a time delay from when a citizen calls the police to when the police get there to your house to investigate what is going on. Recently, in my neighborhood in the early morning hours, I saw a man going up and down drive ways and checking owner's cars with a flashlight. (I later found out he was checking doors to houses to see if they were locked). He was removing items from owner's cars. I called the police and even though the response was good, there was a delay when the criminal could have entered our homes. What are we supposed to do if the criminal has a weapon of some kind? Dr. Petit was hit in the head with a baseball bat and then tied up. His wife and two daughters were murdered by the home invaders. The gun control bandwagon proponents want to pass laws that take away our second amendment rights by (1) requiring us to also have a license to purchase ammunition, (2) renew pistol permits every year with increase fees for doing so. (3) The first step of any oppressive government is to confiscate all firearms. It has historically happened before. We have a government in the United State that has three separate branches, each equal in power for checks and balances. As long as we keep it, we are OK. (4) Publishing the names of pistol permit owners in the newspaper. That happened in New York and some criminals broke into a legal gun owner's house but the crooks could not get the gun because it was in a gun safe locked up. The Patriot Act was signed into law by President Bush, then expanded and continued by President Obama. The citizens are being stripped of their rights and privacy for for so called "safety". Now, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is in danger of being taken away. Your committee should work on getting better mental health laws to get treatment for people with schizophrenia related mental conditions that lasts longer then it presently does. It is inadequate at this time. There are no pro gun ownership members on your committee because the Governor is not a proponent of private citizens having firearms and he appointed all of you. No one can stop you from making gun confiscation recommendations and passing statutes that make it nearly impossible for the average person to obtain a pistol permit, purchase ammunition or do anything else that can make having a firearm difficult for law abiding citizens. Look beyond your own personal prejudices about private citizens having firearms. Look to the founders of this country who understood human nature and lived under tyranny and left Europe to escape it. Do the right thing and let us keep our weapons. Thank you. Thomas Fitzgibbons