

Alaska Dispatch

Alaska delegation: Supreme Court gun ruling is awesome!

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Monday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court said the Second Amendment right to carry a gun can't be overruled by state and local gun control laws. A little later the same morning, Rep. Don Young, Sen. Mark Begich, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (in that order) weighed in to say they approved.

All three had previously signed friend of the court briefs in the case, *McDonald v. Chicago*, in favor of gun rights.

"In Alaska, close to two-thirds of citizens are proud gun owners, myself included," Young said in a press release. His release also made the point that if the Supreme Court struck down Chicago's gun rights, who's to say the same overreach wouldn't one day affect Alaska?

"Today is an excellent day for the Second Amendment and the rights of Alaskans and all Americans to keep and bear arms," Begich said in his release. Begich, along with Sens. John McCain and Jon Tester, is a sponsor of the Second Amendment Enforcement Act, which seeks to secure gun rights for District of Columbia residents.

Murkowski's office is a step behind on the press release front (not a bad thing) but her spokesman, Mike Brumas, said she too praised the decision and would have words on it soon.

Update: Monday afternoon Murkowski's office sent out a release that applauded the decision and also said, in part, "As I said when I announced my opposition to Justice Sotomayor's nomination last year, no constitutional issue concerns Alaskans more than the Second Amendment."

Alaska has already seen conflict over whether a state-funded institution can limit Second Amendment rights. In late April, during finals, four armed men walked onto the main quad at the University of Alaska Anchorage in a planned protest against UA's gun ban.

A swarm of reporters and photographers documented the University of Alaska Police Department asking the men to leave campus. The protesters, along with about 20 supporters, moved over to Providence Drive where they waved to honking drivers and held up signs reading "Patriots protect our Constitution" and "Don't tread on me." A 65-year-old woman from Wasilla handed out cookies frosted with little black pistols.

Source: Alaska Dispatch