

HJR

17

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**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17(JUD)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/18/09
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HARRIS, Stoltze, Chenault, Coghill, Foster, Johnson, Lynn, Neuman, Kawasaki, Keller, Ramras, Millett, Wilson, Kelly, Gatto, Muñoz, Austerman, Buch, Cissna, Crawford, Dahlstrom, Doogan, Edgmon, Fairclough, Gara, Gardner, Gruenberg, Guttentberg, Hawker, Herron, Holmes, Johansen, Joule, Kerttula, Olson, Petersen, Salmon, Seaton, Thomas, Tuck

SENATORS Therriault, Bunde, Dyson, McGuire, Menard, Meyer, Huggins, Stedman, Olson, Stevens

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to reject H.R. 45, the Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing**
2 **and Record of Sale Act of 2009.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution enunciates a
5 citizen's right to keep and bear arms, stating that that right shall not be infringed; and

6 **WHEREAS** art. I, sec. 19, Constitution of the State of Alaska, provides that the right
7 of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed and further states that the individual
8 right to keep and bear arms shall not be denied or infringed; and

9 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 has been introduced in the United States Congress to require
10 licensure of firearm owners and extensive recordkeeping of transactions that result in the
11 transfer of certain firearms, including handguns and semiautomatic rifles; and

12 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45, referred to as the Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of
13 Sale Act of 2009, would make it a federal felony to possess a firearm without a license; and

14 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 would also make it a federal felony to transfer a firearm to
15 another person who is not licensed; and

16 **WHEREAS** H.R. 45 directs the Attorney General of the United States to establish and

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a misdemeanor
in HR 45

1 maintain a federal system documenting the sale and transfer of firearms; and

2 WHEREAS H.R. 45 would make it a federal felony to fail to report the loss or theft of
3 a firearm to the attorney general within 72 hours; and

4 WHEREAS, under H.R. 45, a firearm owner could be charged with a federal felony
5 based on the actions of a juvenile who might gain access to the firearm; and

6 WHEREAS H.R. 45 directs the attorney general to establish and maintain a firearm
7 injury information clearinghouse, to conduct studies of firearm-related deaths and injuries,
8 and to collect and maintain production and sales data from licensed firearm manufactures; and

9 WHEREAS the provisions of H.R. 45 cumulatively constitute a gun registration
10 system and an assault on the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens; and

11 WHEREAS the private ownership of firearms has always been a key component of
12 our national defense and constitutes a constructive notice to our enemies that Americans are a
13 free people and a people free to defend themselves; and

14 WHEREAS H.R. 45 would diminish this traditional component of our national
15 defense; and

16 WHEREAS there are other methods of addressing the problem of gun violence and
17 gun-related deaths, such as increased education on the proper handling and use of firearms,
18 that would be more effective and less intrusive into the private lives of American citizens and
19 would not diminish a constitutionally guaranteed right;

20 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the Blair Holt's
21 Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009, urges the United States Congress to reject
22 H.R. 45, and further urges the members of the Alaska Congressional delegation to oppose and
23 defeat H.R. 45; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Alaska Congressional delegation are
25 urged to support and expand federal funding of firearm education programs.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-
27 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid,
28 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the
29 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
30 Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the
31 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the

1 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Alaska State Legislature



Interim: (June – Dec.)
716 West 4TH Avenue, Suite 600
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

Session: (Jan. – May)
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HARRIS

Sponsor Statement

Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution 17 (Judiciary)

Urging Congress to Reject H.R. 45, the Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and record of Sale Act of 2009

House Joint Resolution 17 asks the United States Congress to oppose and defeat House Resolution 45, a measure that has been introduced in Congress that would significantly diminish Alaskans' right to keep and bear arms.

Among other things, HR 45 would require Americans to go through onerous federal licensure in order to possess a firearm; it would make it a felony to transfer a firearm to someone who does not have a license; it would make it a felony to fail to timely report such a transfer or to fail to report the loss or theft of a firearm within 72 hours to the U.S. Attorney General; and, it requires the attorney general to establish and maintain a data base of firearm transfers.

It is important that Congress receive a message from the Alaska Legislature as soon as possible that Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

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REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HARRIS

March 4, 2009

Honorable Hollis French, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Request for a hearing on CSHJR 17 (Judiciary)

Dear Senator French:

I respectfully request that you schedule a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution 17 (Judiciary), "Urging the United States Congress to reject H.R. 45, the Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009."

Attached please find a copy of the resolution, a sponsor statement, and a fiscal note.

Thank you,

Rep. John Harris