

If Democrats Controlled the House...

A Weekly Taste of Their Legislative Agenda



What sort of legislation might Democrats enact if they control the House? There is little need to speculate—just look at what they are introducing this Congress while in the minority. Below is another example of a bill the Democrats might try to move if given the opportunity.

Proposal: H.R. 4063, the Guns-Free National Parks Act

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)

Summary: Current law (under Section 512 of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009) stipulates that any person who may legally possess a firearm according to federal and state laws may carry such a firearm in a National Park. This bill would repeal this section of the law, effectively criminalizing the possession of a firearm in a National Park.

Problems with the Bill: As with many 'common sense' gun control measures, this bill would guarantee countless unintended consequences and would deprive law abiding American citizens of the ability to defend themselves. The federal government should not prevent a person who is camping from being able to defend herself or himself against a bear or other predatory animals, should the need arise. Additionally, criminalizing guns in National Parks would incentivize armed criminals (who can obtain guns elsewhere regardless) to conduct illegal activity in the parks, where their intended victims are legally unarmed. These lands should not become 'victim zones,' and Americans who are allowed to carry a firearm for protection elsewhere should not be prevented from doing so in a National Park.

Reminder: RSC staffers and interns are encouraged to send other examples of questionable legislation to Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.