

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 424 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY GODSHALL, METCALFE, AUMENT, BAKER, BLOOM, BOYD, CAUSER, CLYMER, COX, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, ELLIS, EMRICK, FLECK, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GRELL, HAHN, HARHAI, HARRIS, HEFFLEY, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LAWRENCE, LONGIETTI, MALONEY, METZGAR, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MULLERY, PAYNE, PERRY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, CULVER, SCHRODER, STERN, TALLMAN, TOEPEL, TOOHIL, TURZAI, VEREB, GROVE, VULAKOVICH AND GEIST, OCTOBER 3, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 3, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Senate of the United States to oppose the United  
 2 Nations' arms trade treaty if it restricts the rights of  
 3 Pennsylvania citizens under either the Second Amendment to  
 4 the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 21 of  
 5 the Pennsylvania Constitution.

6 WHEREAS, The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the  
 7 United States and Article I, Section 21 of the Constitution of  
 8 Pennsylvania guarantee a fundamental right to keep and bear  
 9 arms; and

10 WHEREAS, In October of 2009 at the United Nations General  
 11 Assembly, the United States delegate voted for the United States  
 12 to participate in negotiating an arms trade treaty; and

13 WHEREAS, Preparatory committee meetings have been held in  
 14 anticipation of a conference in 2012 to finalize the arms trade  
 15 treaty; and

16 WHEREAS, While the 2009 resolution on the treaty acknowledged

1 the existence of "national constitutional protections on private  
2 ownership," it placed the existence of these protections in the  
3 context of the right of nations "to regulate internal transfers  
4 of arms and national ownership," implying that constitutional  
5 protections must be interpreted in the context of the broader  
6 power of a nation to regulate; and

7 WHEREAS, United Nations member countries routinely claim that  
8 no treaty controlling the transfer of arms internationally can  
9 be effective without controls on transfers inside member  
10 countries; and

11 WHEREAS, Reports from the 2010 Preparatory Meeting make it  
12 clear that many United Nations member countries aim to craft an  
13 extremely broad arms trade treaty that would pose dangers to all  
14 United States businesses and individuals involved in any aspect  
15 of the firearms industry; and

16 WHEREAS, At the 2010 Meeting, the United States delegate  
17 twice expressed frustration with the wide-ranging and  
18 unrealistic scope of the proposed treaty; and

19 WHEREAS, On July 11, 2011, 45 United States Senators sent a  
20 letter to the President of the United States and the Secretary  
21 of State stating that the Senators would oppose ratification of  
22 a United Nations' arms trade treaty that in any way restricts  
23 the rights of law-abiding United States citizens to manufacture,  
24 assemble, possess, transfer or purchase firearms, ammunition and  
25 related items; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Senate of the United  
28 States to oppose the United Nations' arms trade treaty if it  
29 restricts the rights of Pennsylvania citizens under either the  
30 Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States or

1 Article I, Section 21 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and  
2 be it further  
3 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
4 the President of the United States Senate and to each United  
5 States Senator from Pennsylvania.