

Reasonable restrictions also might be thought consistent with a "well regulated Militia." The registration of firearms gives the government information as to how many people would be armed for militia service if called up. Reasonable firearm proficiency testing would both promote public safety and produce better candidates for military service. Personal characteristics, such as insanity or felonious conduct, that make gun ownership dangerous to society also make someone unsuitable for service in the militia. Cf. D.C. Code § 49-401 (excluding "idiots, lunatics, common drunkards, vagabonds, paupers, and persons convicted of any infamous crime" from militia duty). On the other hand, it does not follow that a person who is unsuitable for militia service has no right to keep and bear arms. A physically disabled person, for instance, might not be able to participate in even the most rudimentary organized militia. But this person would still have the right to keep and bear arms, just as men over the age of forty-five and women would have that right, even though our nation has traditionally excluded them from membership in the militia. As we have

The gun lobby has received its devastating defeat. There is a reason why the NRA works very hard to keep gun rights cases out of court.

The gun lobby, led by the NRA, would fight viciously any legislative attempt to implement Judge Silberman's conclusion.

<http://www.nraila.org/news-issues/fact-sheets/2000/licensing-and-registration.aspx>

The gun rights militants need not worry. There is not the political leadership to exploit the devastating defeat.