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**Majority Floor Whip
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One of the fundamental rights granted to us under the U.S. Constitution is the right to bear arms. And as your Representative in the Missouri House, I take those words seriously. For this reason, we stand up to fight for our Constitution whenever any of our freedoms are under attack. It is our responsibility and duty to all Missourians.

Defending freedom is a value we share. Whether it is our 2nd Amendment rights or the right to life, we have worked hard to ensure that every citizen keeps the God-given liberties laid out by our founding fathers. This week, the house took a stand for freedom by passing HJR 49, of which I am the author and sponsor, ensuring that every citizen keeps their right to use firearms.

Lately, it seems that the other side of the aisle has shifted their argument from gun control toward regulating other firearm products. But it is evident that they are using the same tired argument and refocusing on ammunition. They have lost the debate on restricting your right to own guns so they are taking a new approach that regulates ammo out of existence making your firearms worthless.

This new approach has proven effective in other states. In the past year, both California and New Jersey, in an affront to our civil rights, have enacted laws changing the way law-abiding citizens buy ammunition. After all, a gun isn't any good if you don't have any bullets to fire.

The California law is particularly onerous. Starting in 2011, retailers selling ammunition in that state will be required to collect personal information from buyers. For example, buyers will have to provide their driver's license number, address and date of birth when they purchase shells or bullets for their guns. And, on top of that, they will also be required to provide their thumbprint.

In essence, California is treating their law-abiding citizens like criminals. The end result is the erosion of the fundamental liberty of their citizens, undermining the purpose and spirit of the Bill of Rights essential to every American's liberty.

The bottom line is that we can't let that happen here in Missouri, and HJR 49 will ensure that it doesn't. By sending this legislation to a vote of the people, we can ensure that all law-abiding Missourians continue enjoying the freedom to own and use firearms. The bill now goes to the Senate where, upon approval, it will be placed on the ballot.

If you would like to discuss this issue with me, please call 573-751-3783 or you can email me at rick.brattin@house.mo.gov.

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