

JOE WALSH

8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH,
TAX, AND CAPITAL ACCESS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1308

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

432 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3711

www.walsh.house.gov

DISTRICT OFFICE:

50 EAST GRAND AVENUE
FOX LAKE, IL 60020
(847) 973-9341

December 2, 2011

Mr. Dennis Henigan
Acting President
The Brady Campaign
1225 Eye Street NW, #1100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Acting President Henigan:

I have your letter of November 17th taking me up on my offer to debate the Second Amendment.

I appreciate your willingness to debate me on this issue. I believe that the right to bear arms is a fundamental right inscribed in our Constitution to guarantee that Americans can protect themselves and their families. I would, however, prefer that we debate outside the Beltway and somewhere in my district. Your desire to hold the debate in Washington D.C. is a perfect example of the fundamental problem with Washington D.C.

Washington politicians, bureaucrats, and lobbyists, are too obsessed with each other, the Washington insiders. In your November 23rd press release, you yourself emphasized how critical it is that “[my] colleagues in the House and Senate, and their staffs, as well as the national press corps” attend our debate.

Who cares?

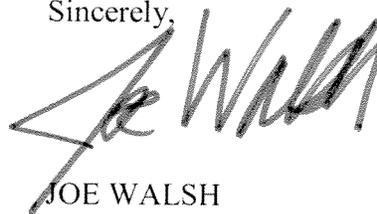
The last time I checked I represent the folks of Illinois 8th Congressional District, not Congressional staff, Washington lobbyists, or the national press corps. I was sent here to Washington to fight for my constituents and their rights and interests. Why would I care what Washington insiders have to say?

Now, I assume that, as a lobbyist, you feel the same way—that you are here in Washington D.C. to advocate on behalf of all Americans. If that is true, then I find your obsession with the thoughts and opinions of Washington insiders disturbing. What does their opinion matter, if you are here to fight on behalf of all Americans, 99.8% of whom live outside of Washington D.C.? I think it is important for you to travel outside the beltway and hear from real Americans, many of whom grew up with and continue to own guns.

So, once again, I challenge you to debate the Second Amendment in my district in front of real Americans in the heartland, not Washington D.C. insiders. Unless, of course, you have no interest in hearing what real Americans have to say.

I will await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. The first part of the signature is a large, sweeping stroke that forms a shape resembling a triangle or a stylized "J".

JOE WALSH
Member of Congress