

District of Columbia Million Mom March Chapter • The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence • Empower DC • Facilitating Leadership in Youth • Fihankra Akoma Ntoaso (FAN) • Kendra Smith Family LifeLine Movement • Mothers of Unsolved Murders (MUMs) • Mothers on the Move Spiritually (MOMS) • Violence Policy Center • Virginians Against Handgun Violence

October 6, 2006

Daniel M. Snyder
Owner
Washington Redskins
Redskins Park
21300 Redskin Park Drive
Ashburn, VA 20147

Dear Mr. Snyder:

As Washington, D.C., area organizations that work daily to prevent gun death and injury, we are writing to urge you to cancel the Redskins' hosting of the second annual "Redskins Sporting Clays Challenge, presented by NRA [National Rifle Association] Sports," on Tuesday, October 17, at the Prince George's County Trap and Skeet Center.

As you know, proceeds will benefit the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation, the mission statement of which declares that the foundation works to "make a positive and measurable impact on youth in the greater Washington, D.C. region in the areas of literacy, youth development, education, community service, health and wellness."

At the same time that the District of Columbia is under a "Crime Emergency" and its young people are continuing to pay a disproportionately high price in death and injury due to gun homicide, the National Rifle Association is continuing its efforts to overturn D.C.'s landmark gun laws. The October 2006 issue of the NRA's *America's 1st Freedom* magazine features a column condemning D.C.'s "draconian gun control system" and declaring, "It's time to overturn the D.C. gun law...."

The bills to repeal the District of Columbia's gun laws promoted by the NRA would: legalize handguns as well as semiautomatic assault weapons and 50 caliber sniper rifles; allow any person to carry, openly or concealed, loaded handguns and other concealable firearms in houses, places of business, or other land "possessed by that person"; and, severely weaken the District's ban on armor-piercing handgun ammunition. At the same time, it stands as an outrageous attack by an outside special interest group on the home rule rights of D.C. residents.

The NRA's efforts endanger the safety of District of Columbia residents, commuters, tourists, public officials, and the law enforcement professionals sworn to protect our nation's capital. The legislation is vigorously opposed by Mayor Anthony Williams, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Charles Ramsey, and D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton.

While the NRA may have convinced the Redskins that it is somehow possible to separate the NRA's political agenda from other components of the organization, this rationalization is false and, to be frank, an insult to those whose lives have been ended or changed forever by the NRA's pro-gun, anti-public safety policies and actions. Recognizing that gun violence is one of the single most prevalent, and preventable, factors that can affect the "health and wellness" of youth in the Washington, D.C., area, we urge the Washington Redskins to end all participation in this event. The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation's involvement with an organization whose mission is to repeal Washington, D.C.'s gun laws cannot be reconciled with the mission of the foundation.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Ladd Everitt
District of Columbia Million Mom March Chapter

Josh Horwitz
The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence

Parisa B. Norouzi
Empower DC

James Pearlstein
Facilitating Leadership in Youth

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