



**TWO WAYS A SUPREME COURT APPOINTEE  
COULD THREATEN GUN CONTROL LAWS:**

■ **The rights and safety of Americans:**  
In the past decade, 5-4 rulings by the Supreme Court have struck down a federal law prohibiting firearms in the proximity of schools and quashed a part of the Brady Act pertaining to background checks on handgun practices. Right-wing justices could seal the fate on these and other gun control measures that protect the rights and safety of all Americans.

■ **Second Amendment challenges:** Since 1939, the Supreme Court has refused to revisit the question of the interpretation of the Second Amendment. Recently, the Court dealt a blow to the NRA and other pro-gun lobby groups by refusing to review two cases that the gun lobby believed could nullify many existing gun control laws. Both of these challenges were based on a belief that the Second Amendment guaranteed the rights of individuals to carry weapons.

During John Ashcroft's tenure at the Justice Department, the department reversed its long-standing opposition to this interpretation, embracing the view that the Second Amendment protects the rights of individuals to carry guns. New right-wing justices could agree with this interpretation and join the Supreme Court with pivotal votes that would overturn many federal and state gun control laws. Indeed, Justice Clarence Thomas has already argued that Congress has no authority to pass gun control laws.

# PROTECT

## SENSIBLE GUN CONTROL

**The ability of the federal government to pass gun control laws is at risk. You can help protect gun control laws by helping to save the Supreme Court.**

The nine-member Supreme Court interprets the Constitution and laws – and plays a powerful role in gun control laws in America. Right now, the Supreme Court is closely divided on key questions, so the people appointed to fill vacancies expected on the Court over the next few years will have a huge effect on the ability of the federal government to pass gun control laws for decades to come.

We face the very real prospect of as many as four vacancies on the Supreme Court in the next four years. And just one or two new right-wing justices like Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas – the justices President Bush has called his models for Supreme Court appointments – would undermine gun controls laws in America.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Despite the compromise over the filibuster, there remains an effort by allies of the White House to change Senate rules and make it harder to prevent anyone nominated by the president from getting on the Supreme Court for life. If you don't want gun control laws to be weakened or eliminated by a far-right dominated Supreme Court, now is the time to take action.



For more information see: **savethecourt.org**

or to get involved call: **1-800-326-7329**