

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 28, 2004

**D.C. Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey:**  
**“H.R. 3193 Allows Loaded Assault Weapons on the Streets of D.C.”**

Dear Colleague:

Proponents of H.R. 3193 do not seem to have read their own bill. According to Rep. Mark Souder, the prime sponsor, “H.R. 3193 does not permit assault weapons on D.C. streets.”

Today, D.C. Mayor Williams and D.C. Police Chief Ramsey publicly disagreed. After reciting specific provisions of the D.C. Code, Mayor Williams concluded: **“This legislation would allow assembled and loaded assault weapons to be carried in public in Washington, D.C.”**

He pointed out that the bill repeals sections 7-2501.01(10), 7-2502.01, and 7.2502.02 of the D.C. Code, which ban the possession of semiautomatic assault weapons, and section 7-2507.02, which requires that firearms be kept “unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock.” The repeal of these provisions means that it will be legal to possess assault weapons and to carry them loaded and assembled.

Rep. Souder seems to be confused about D.C. Code section 22-4504. As Mayor Williams pointed out, this provision prohibits carrying “pistols” and other “concealable” weapons in public. If H.R. 3193 is enacted, there would be no restriction on carrying large assault weapons like the Barrett M82A1 semiautomatic 50-caliber sniper weapon, which is almost five feet long and weighs nearly 30 pounds.

As Mayor Williams stated, **“Anyone who says otherwise is wrong and does not understand D.C. gun laws.”**

Chief Ramsey, the District’s top law enforcement official, stated: **“This bill repeals D.C.’s prohibition on assault weapons . . . . We don’t need a law that puts more assault weapons in circulation in D.C.”**

The implications of H.R. 3193 are poorly understood, even by its own sponsors. This is a direct consequence of rushing this legislation to the floor without consideration in the committee of jurisdiction. Please join me in opposing H.R. 3193.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Government Reform