

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children's Rights

**<https://www.childrensdefense.org/2008/childrens-defense-fund-disappointed-by-supreme-courts-decision-in-district-of-columbia-v-heller/>**

## Public Facing Advocacy Writing

For Immediate Release  
June 26, 2008

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WASHINGTON, D.C. Childrens Defense Fund (CDF) General Counsel Susan Gates today released the following statement concerning the Supreme Courts decision in the *District of Columbia v. Heller* case, which struck down Washington, D.C.s decades-old handgun ban. Earlier this year, CDF and several other organizations submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the Supreme Court urging the Justices to uphold the ban.

**The Childrens Defense Fund is disappointed with the U.S. Supreme Courts decision to strike down D.C.s handgun ban. Laws such as the D.C. ban not only provide reasonable restrictions, but also are critical to protecting children and teens who are extremely vulnerable to gun violence, as highlighted by CDFs recently released gun report, *Protect Children, Not Guns*.**

**The gun report reveals that in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, 3,006 children and teens were killed by firearms, marking the first increase of children and teens killed by gun violence since 1994. It is also the first rise in firearm deaths of children and teens since Congress allowed the Assault Weapons Ban to expire in 2004.**

**In 2005, more preschoolers were killed by guns than were law enforcement officers in the line of duty.**

**While this decision will have a devastating impact on D.C.s handgun laws, the Supreme Court did recognize that the Second Amendment is not unlimited and that prohibitions on possession and use of handguns are constitutional. Federal, state and local governments must enact laws to prohibit use of handguns by and around children and youth to stop tragic deaths and injuries. We also must urge Congress to enact common sense gun safety measures by requiring criminal background checks on those who purchase guns from unlicensed gun dealers. Finally, we must confront Americas culture of violence by stressing more non-violent values and conflict resolution. In light of the Supreme Courts decision, every citizen must take action to help ensure our children a safe future.**

To view a copy of *Protect Children, Not Guns* in its entirety and additional online tools, visit [www.childrensdefense.org/gunreport](http://www.childrensdefense.org/gunreport).

A gift today helps children get the help they need

The Childrens Defense Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Federal Tax ID number is 52-0895622.

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