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On gun rights decision, the context was critical

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The Feb. 26 editorial “Logic wins out on a Maryland gun law” misrepresented the Supreme Court’s opinion in *District of Columbia v. Heller* to say, “‘weapons that are most useful in military service — M-16 rifles and the like — may be banned.’” Here’s the quote in full context: “It may be objected that if weapons that are most useful in military service — M-16 rifles and the like — may be banned, then the Second Amendment right is completely detached from the prefatory clause. . . . But the fact that modern developments have limited the degree of fit between the prefatory clause and the protected right cannot change our interpretation of the right.”

Heller may have excluded “unusual” military weapons from Second Amendment protection, but the court explicitly included weapons in “common use” — such as the semiautomatic AR-15 civilian take on the M-16 rifle.

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