



Hoosiers
Concerned
About
Gun
Violence

The problem is guns, not the ‘cultural’ issues!

Winter, 2013 – Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence

By Stephen R. Dunlop, M. D., president, HCGV

Connecticut’s gun laws did not prevent the slaughter in Newtown. But I would like to point out that Connecticut in 2010 experienced 4.3 firearm fatalities per 100,000 people while Indiana suffered 11.7 fatalities. If Indiana had Connecticut’s gun laws we might have had 261 firearm deaths in 2010 instead of 709. Gun laws DO contribute to your safety.

In this particular case, a woman who apparently met Connecticut’s standards had a number of

semiautomatic weapons in her home. She did not recognize that whatever problems her son was experiencing should have led her to remove or secure the weapons. She paid with her life for the mistake as did 20 innocent children.

Recognition that military-style weapons should not be freely distributed to every adult that meets minimum criteria is the regulation most countries have taken to prevent this, and they have great-

ly reduced or eliminated mass shootings. It does not give me a warm feeling to know that someone down the street may have an arsenal in his home; the Connecticut massacre only increases my discomfort, as now I not only have to be concerned about my neighbor’s instability, but also that of anyone in the home with access to the weapons. In 1816 Indiana’s constitution did not envision such atrocities as Newtown.

COMPUTER CONTACT

Would you be willing to receive your copy of the newsletter by computer only? You may contact David Mason at e-mail dmason@indy.rr.com. if you are willing to receive the newsletter ONLY by e-mail.



WOMEN ON BOARD

70% OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF HOOSIERS CONCERNED ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE ARE WOMEN. MORE WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ARE YOU WILLING TO BE ONE OF THOSE? CALL BOB FRIEDLY AT (317) 357-5550.

LAWS

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION SAYS: “THE 2013 INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS OFF TO A GREAT START WITH MULTIPLE PRO-GUN BILLS BEING FILED. YOUR NRA WILL CONTINUE PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF LAW ABIDING GUN OWNERS.”

HB 1473: (sponsored by Republican Jim Lucas) would allow a person who legally possesses a firearm stored in a locked trunk of their vehicle, a glove box, or stored out of plain sight in the vehicle while on school property. *Referred to the House Committee on Public Policy.*

HB 1563: (Republican Rep. Sean Eberhart) applies to fish and wildlife matters. It would make a “few enhancements to Indiana’s wildlife laws. *Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources.*

SB 97: (Republican Reps. Jim Banks and Jim Tomes) prohibits a state agency, including a state-supported college or university, from regulating the possession or transportation of firearms, ammunition or accessories on land, in buildings and other structures that are owned or leased by the state. (not affecting prohibited places under federal law.) *Referred to Senate Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure.*



A Few of the Newtown children



FACTS

Washington Post columnist Ruth Marcus wrote in the Indianapolis Star that “guns don’t make women safer” as claimed by Gayle Trotter of the conservative Independent Women’s Forum in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Women with a gun in the home were nearly three times as likely to be the victim of homicide than women living in a home without firearms, according to a 2003 study in the Annals of Emergency Medicine.

David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, says that “There is no evidence that a gun in the home is protective for the woman.”



Your Representatives in Congress:

1. Peter Viscloskey
2. Jackie Walorski
3. Marlin Stutzman
4. Todd Rokita
5. Susan Brooks
6. Luke Messer
7. Andre Carson
8. Larry Bucshon
9. Todd Young

Obama's gun violence plan

1. Closing background check loopholes to keep guns out of dangerous hands.
2. Banning military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and taking other common sense steps.
3. Making schools safer.
4. Increasing access to mental health services.

U. S. Senators:

Dan Coats
Joe Donnelly

Go to "Contacting
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you want.

An opportunity for action against guns?

by the Rev. Bob Sanders

The recent shooting of 20 students and 6 staff in Newtown, Conn., has given the general public a horrible reminder of the misuse of guns, in particular, assault weapons.

Recently, in Chicago, five teenagers were returning home from school and were shot. In her grief, a mother of one of the teens co-founded an organization concerned with gun violence. She met with Vice President Joe Biden's task force to work on the issue of lessening gun violence.

President Obama has issued several executive actions toward curbing gun violence. Among them, each requiring action by Congress:

(1) Require background checks on all gun sales. (2) Reinstate the assault weapons ban on high-grade, military-style weapons that expired in 2004.

(3) Renew a 10-round limit on the size of ammunition magazines. (4) Prohibit the possession, transfer, manufacture and import of armor-piercing bullets. (5) Pass gun-trafficking laws that would penalize people who help criminals get guns.

In *The Underground Church* Robin Meyers makes a mocking charge: "Real men practice the family values of empire, go on great crusades to protect threats to their country, and attach themselves to guns and gun ownership as a religious imperative."

While we are concerned with the increasing gun violence, we need to ask ourselves what steps we can take to prevent further gun violence. HCGV must be ever vigilant for any opportunity it finds.

1. LOUISIANA

2. MISSISSIPPI

3. NEW MEXICO

4. MARYLAND

5. SOUTH CAROLINA

6. ALABAMA

7. MICHIGAN

8. ARIZONA

9. MISSOURI

10. TENNESSEE

FROM THE EDITORS

Indiana certainly does not have the highest murder rate in the country. But we do rate in the top 20. Interestingly, it is the states with a death penalty that have the highest murder rates. One might think that where capital punishment is employed, the murder rate would go down. But not so. Louisiana's rate is 11.2 per 100,000 people. Indiana's is 4.8 per 100,000.

Bob Sanders, Bob Friedly

MEMBERS

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence has 155 members. A total of 70% of the membership is located in Indianapolis, but there also are members from Anderson, Avon, Bloomington, Carmel, Claypool, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Greencastle, Greenfield, Hobart, Lafayette, Laporte, Lebanon, Muncie, Noblesville, N. Manchester, Schererville, Seymour, South Bend, Zionsville, plus several out-of-state subscribers.

OFFICERS

President: Steve Dunlop

Vice Pres: Loring Prosser

Treasurer: Dave Mason

Secretary: Bob Friedly

HOOSIERS CONCERNED

Winter 2013, HCGV
newsletter

Annual dues for Hoosiers
Concerned about Gun
Violence: \$25