

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence

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Letter from former HCGV president Dr. Steve Dunlop to Senator Dan Coates

I am writing to urge you to follow up concerning H.R. 822, the National Right to Carry Reciprocity Act. You need to be aware of the defects and dangers of this bill if it comes to the Senate for consideration.

The bill overrides the right of states to regulate who may carry guns in their communities, a traditional right of state and local communities. Even in the days of the Old West, towns tired of barroom gun fights regulated the carrying of guns.

Indiana already has a robust handgun concealed-carry framework for its own citizens, which exceeds federal and many state standards including:

prohibitions on carrying by dangerous individuals. Indiana requires that an applicant be a "proper person" to receive a permit, prohibiting:

- individuals who have been convicted of resisting law enforcement in the 5 years prior to the application;

- individuals with a record of alcohol or drug abuse, including those who have at least two drug-crime violations if one resulted in a misdemeanor conviction by a court or treatment in a drug abuse facility in the 5 years prior to the application;

- individuals with a record supporting the belief that the applicant has a "propensity for violent or emotionally unstable conduct;"

- individuals convicted of a misdemeanor crime involving an inability to safely handle a handgun;

- individuals convicted of violating misdemeanor state handgun laws in the 5 years prior to the application.

Local law enforcement has limited discretion to approve or deny a

carry permit. Applicants must have a "good character and reputation." Applicants must have a "proper reason" for carrying a firearm, such as self-defense.

H.R. 822 will be a great boon to gun traffickers. Gun traffickers with a permit from any state will be able to buy and carry quantities of guns between states without question. Law enforcement would be required to actually catch them in a sale to prevent their ability to peddle guns in a state. The one clear relationship to the above is higher rates of homicide in states with higher rates of gun ownership.

The bill is opposed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Latino Peace Officers Association, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement. It is also opposed by the 600 mayors of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. This bill deserves a "no" vote. The federal government has no business increasing the difficulties of states and localities to cope with gun violence and trafficking.

Note: H.R. 822 passed the House Judiciary Committee 19-10.

DOES DEATH PENALTY ACTUALLY FOSTER HIGHER MURDER RATES?

Christian Century magazine reports that murder rates in death penalty states actually are higher than in those states that have no death penalty, seemingly undercutting the argument in favor of the death penalty as a deterrent to murder.

In 1990, the rate of murders in death penalty states was 4% higher than states without it. In 1995, the rate was 27% higher. In 2000, it was 34% higher. In 2005 it was 46% higher, and in 2009, 34% higher, the magazine says.

FORT WAYNE HUNTER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT TO DEATH BY SON.

An 18-year-old youth from Fort Wayne shot his father to death in an apparent accident when they were hunting together in an Indiana wildlife area.

The youth got his shotgun tangled in underbrush and as he tried to pull it out, it fired into his father's back. The father was pronounced dead at the scene. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette says the safety on the gun may have been knocked to the off position in the effort to extricate the gun from the brush.

RABBI CALLS FOR MORE GUNS AND AMMO.

Rabbi David Bendory of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership says that people should "buy more guns and ammunition while you still can."

Warns the Rabbi: "Anglo/European style gun control is the model that our social engineers, nanny state politicians, liberal elites, and authoritarian high-brows wish upon us." He says that the need for accumulating guns and ammunition cannot be more obvious.

ON BECOMING A BEAST

“If in order to defeat a beast, one has to become a beast, has not beastiality, in fact, won?”

by Rev. Bob Sanders

One of the subtlest of temptations of our day is to be lured into imitating the very thing we abhor. I have heard a number of people suggest that we should use force to achieve goals. I have heard others say that violence is justified in most situations of conflict.

“Might makes right” is part of the culture in which I was

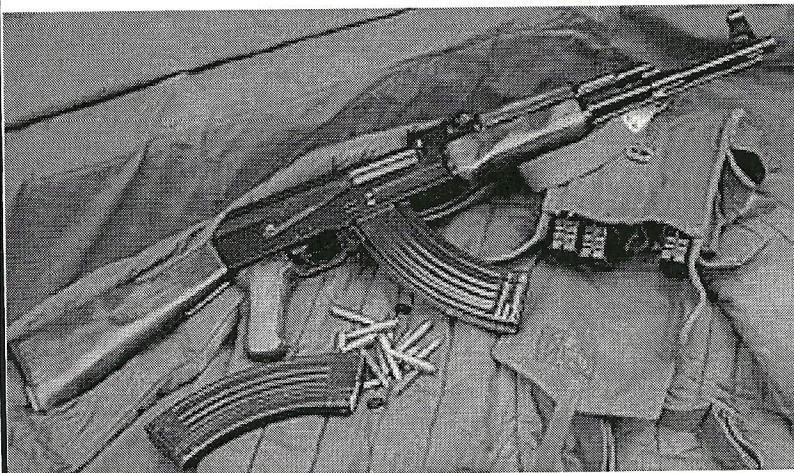
raised. Strong, if not harsh, discipline was meted out for the slightest infraction of the rule. I understand that inclination. But is that the answer?

There is a haunting word in Roland Bainton’s classic, “The Christian Attitude Toward War and Peace.” He asks, “If in order to defeat a beast, one has to become a beast, has not beastiality, in fact, won?” Who wins if one has to defeat coercion by becoming coercive in response?

His insight is relevant to the gun violence of which society seems to approve. I am not sure who is just and who

is unjust in conflicts. But I am utterly sure that sensitivity, patience, and repentance are more in keeping with a gospel of peace than the use of guns to resolve conflict.

I am intrigued by some questions raised by R. Scott Appleby, professor of history and the John M. Regan director of the Krol Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. “Is religion a source of violent and non-violent militance? Is religion itself a source of violence in the world?” His questions are relevant for HCGV!



AN AK47? REALLY?

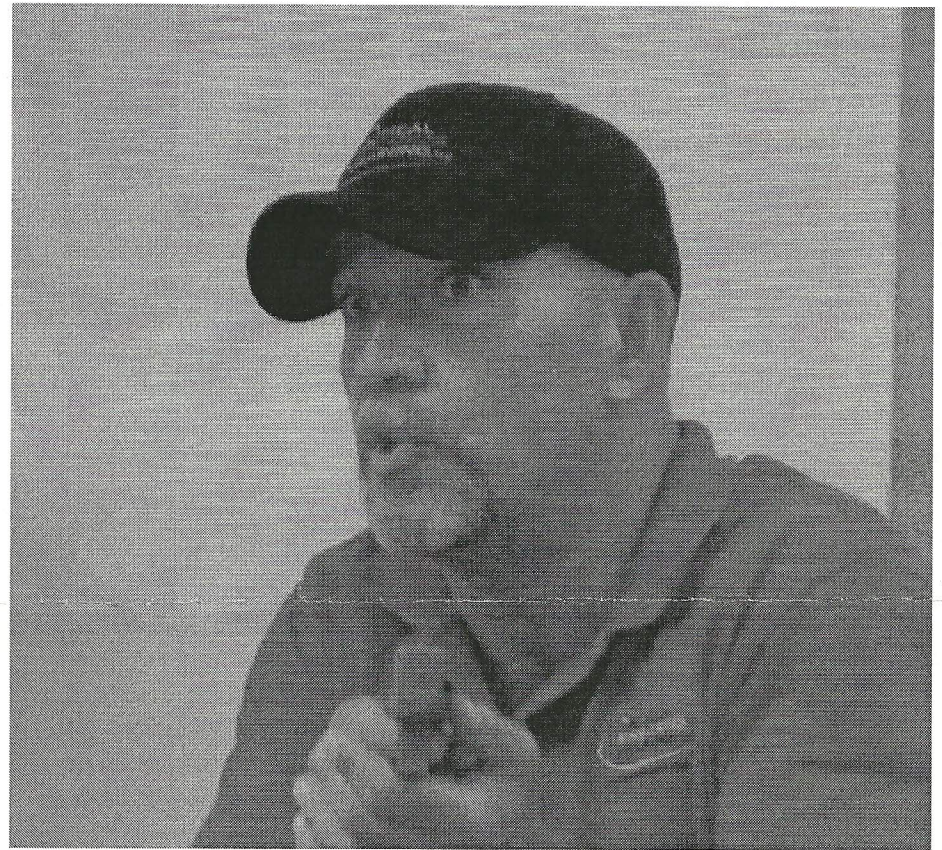
Did you know that a Florida Company is trying to convince its customers that they need an AK47 (pictured at left) to protect their businesses? With that kind of firepower, they could blow away everything in their store along with any robber!

Zionsville lawyer sees his role as making communities adhere to new law permitting guns in public places

Lawyer Guy Relford has filed suit against Evansville and Hammond, saying their gun rules violate the new Indiana law which bars local decisions about where guns can be carried.

The Indianapolis Star ran a major article on the so-called "gun lawyer" from Zionsville, who sees his mission as making certain local communities comply with the "right to carry" law that went into effect July 1.

Relford, who holds bachelor's degrees from DePauw in political science and psychology as well as his IU law degree, says that many laws "disarm the honest people" but do



nothing to deter criminals, according to the Star newspaper. He is president of Tactical Fire-arms Training, which operates the Eagle Creek Pistol Range. Hammond's Mayor Thomas McDermott was quoted as calling the lawsuits a "money grab." He

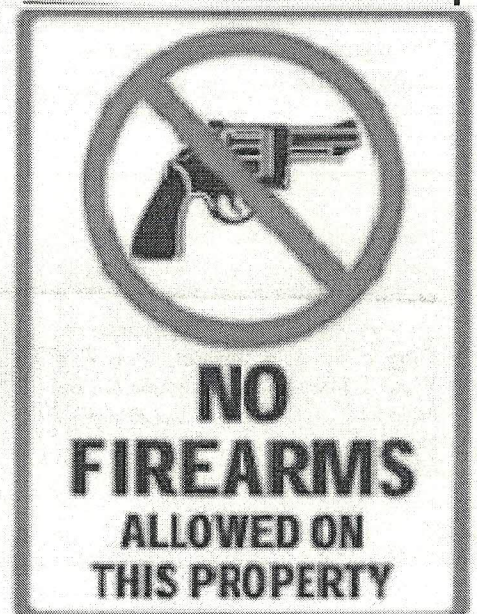
said that Relford was simply trying to make easy money off local communities around the state.

The new Indiana law bars local communities from regulating gun carrying in public parks or public buildings, except where there are courts involved.

MISSING GUNS: LOST AND DANGEROUS

The Brady Center (named after Jim Brady who nearly lost his life in the attempted assassination of President Reagan) reports that since 2009 there have been at least 14,485 guns that have gone missing. In other words, they have left gun manufacturers' inventory without a record of being legally sold

Norway shooter Anders Breivik, charged with killing 68 people on an island summer camp, says he purchased ten 30-round ammunition clips mail order from a gun dealer in the United States.



Gun violence is a joke to Texas Gov. Rick Perry, at one time the front-runner for the Republican nomination for president. Said he: "I'm in favor of gun control. Use both hands!"

4 INDIANA PEDIATRICIANS WROTE A COLUMN IN THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR DEPLORING GUN-RELATED VIOLENCE THAT HAS TAKEN THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 5,000 CHILDREN IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

In four weeks, guns were responsible for the deaths of five young children in various communities throughout Indiana. These accidental shootings are tragic, not only because young lives were brought to an end too soon, but four of them were preventable.

These shootings occurred in the home where the children lived or played, when the children were by themselves or with friends and a loaded gun was found. Since 1990, gun-related violence has killed more than 5,000 children across America.

Children are naturally curious and lack the ability to reason through their actions. Even though parents can and should talk to children about not touching guns, some children will still act on impulse or some will mistakenly think the gun is a toy. Children should not be responsible for gun safety.

The best course of action would be to keep guns out of homes where children live or play. But if a family

must have a gun in the home, it is essential to keep guns stored securely, either in a gun box or safe, with the ammunition stored separately. Forty per cent of American households have guns and 40% of those households keep at least one gun unlocked; 13% keep a gun unlocked and loaded.

To help parents talk to other parents about guns in homes, the Indiana chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has playdate safety cards to jumpstart the conversation. In addition to space for the parent to write down their contact information, it has a list of injury-related questions to ask another parent.

These cards are available at www.inaap.org.

Physicians, educators and child-care providers can download the cards to make them available at their own clinics, schools and daycare centers. It is important that the community works together with pediatricians and other physicians to prevent gun deaths and injuries to children.

Nerissa S. Bauer, Dawn Hunt, Joe O'Neill and Sarah M. Stelzner.

By the Numbers

1. Washington, DC 18.84
2. Louisiana 10.46
3. Alabama 8.02
4. Maryland 6.06
5. Mississippi 5.64
6. Kansas 5.05
7. Missouri 4.94
8. Tennessee 4.81
9. Georgia 4.78
17. Indiana 3.90

FROM THE EDITORS

The above numbers represent the gun murders per 100,000 population in the U.S. Indiana ranks 17th but is higher than the national average, which is 2.98 per 100,000. Interestingly, only Georgia of the top ten more gun violent states has a population as large as Indiana. Indiana is bunched with Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and North Carolina in its rate of gun murders.

Bob Sanders, Bob Friedly

MEMBERS

Membership dues in Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence are \$25 a year. The organization has 155 members, 70% from Indianapolis, also Anderson, Avon, Bloomington, Carmel, Chicago (IL), Claypool, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Frankfort (KY), Greencastle, Greenfield, Hobart, Lafayette, Laporte, Lebanon, Muncie, New Brunswick (NJ), Noblesville, North Manchester, Peabody (MA), Schererville, Seymour, South Bend, Topsham (ME), Washington, D. C., and Zionsville.

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HCGV NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue

The Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence newsletter is published quarterly for the members of the organization.
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LATE BREAKING NEWS. H.R. 822 passed the House of Representatives by 272 - 154. All amendments aimed to weaken the bill were defeated. The six Indiana Republicans voted in favor of H.R. 822. So did Democrats Andre Carson and Joe Donnelly. Only Peter Viscloskey, Democrat, of the Indiana delegation voted nay.