**Letter to the Editor**

**Indianapolis Star, January 16, 2011**

**Can’t we even talk about more restrictions on guns?**

In Tucson, a troubled young man with a 30- shot semiautomatic weapon carried it concealed to a public place. Arizona has no requirement for a carry permit. He walks up to the victim and opens fire. In less than a minute, he killed six and seriously wounded others. Until he opened fire, he had done nothing wrong as far as society was concerned.

Many argue that any practical impediment to this man’s actions before he draws the weapon would be a violation of constitutional rights.

Did the dismal nature of American political discourse have anything to do with the choice of victim? Maybe, but from what we know about the shooter, people at his community college could as easily have been the victims. The more important problem with the political rhetoric in this country is the total inability to have a reasonable discussion about the role of guns and policy. A discussion has begun of doing things to extend special protection to lawmakers. Good for them, but no help to the rest of us.

Thousands of lives are lost every year to suicides and homicides from guns too easily available to a disturbed, angry, or criminal individual. We can’t we even keep thirty round clips that convert a pistol to a weapon of mass destruction off the market. Unless political discourse and action can better regulate gun markets and rules, the rest of us can only continue to improve our ability to grieve, heal and look for scapegoats.

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