

Editor:

Sensible gun regulation for Indiana? It appears we will have to wait another year. So far, the only bills on the issue from Senator Nugent, Senate Bills 11 and 12 would increase exposure to gun violence. SB 12 wants to strip state colleges and universities of any right to regulate guns on campus. The motivation for the campus bill is so students can “protect themselves” from a campus shooting, like Virginia Tech’s. These events are extremely rare, even with our abundance and easy access to guns. There is no evidence that some armed students would do anything to deter somebody as sick and self destructive as these shooters are. Police responders would have a much more difficult time recognizing the shooter if several students are armed. The kind of campus alarms now used when any gun is suspected would be useless. Students are known for high rates of alcohol consumption and other high risk behaviors. Do you want to add guns to the mix? As a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide for men by a factor of ten, more suicides on campus are certain to follow more guns.

SB 11 would deprive businesses, individuals, and government of the right to keep guns off their parking lots. This is a recipe for workplace violence and violates the rights of property owners. Will it help bring businesses to Indiana to tell prospective owners they will not be able to control guns on their property?

I doubt if either of these bills will get anywhere. They will be opposed by educators, the Chamber of Commerce, and virtually anyone who thinks carefully about them.

Stephen R. Dunlop, MD

President, Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence
3535 North Kessler Blvd., North Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46208
317 755-6371