

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

After the two latest mass shootings there was double the hysteria that “guns are the problem” and the cries of “we have to do something” echoed across the media, the calls for more gun control took on new steam. In addition to the normal gun control media experts, the Democrat candidates, the Democrat congress, there was way too many Republicans signaling they were open to new gun control measures. This time the president also said that he was open to new gun control measures. All this hysteria ignores the fact that we already have around 22,000 gun laws and no new law would have prevented these two crimes and the fact that criminals, or would-be criminals, ignore gun laws. I felt a compelling need to write our president and our congress. Below is what I wrote and you are encouraged to let your voice be known using this in full or in part.

Dear President Trump/Senator/Congressman:

The latest mass shootings have brought several things to the fore. America doesn't have a gun problem we have a people problem...a culture problem. I'm going to put this discussion into two categories – demonizing by name calling and gun control.

The core element of political correctness is killing free speech. The political correctness police view any speech they don't agree with as hate speech and by the political correctness rules such speech must be condemned first and then eliminated, even if by force. The college campuses of America have been the laboratory for this anti-American lunacy. Political correctness is censorship and a direct violation of the First Amendment. These censorship threats and name calling is designed to compel the opposition to shut up.

The charge of “racist” has been the hammer used by the Left to shut off discussion of any issue that makes the Left uncomfortable. The President has been called racist by every leftist pundit on TV and in print and every Democrat leader and candidate for president. The President is not a racist. There is NO evidence that he is a racist. Additionally the term racist has been applied to every supporter of the President. The term racist has now lost its true edge because of its indiscriminate and wide-spread use.

The new cudgel to hammer the President and all of his supporters is white supremacist or white nationalist. I'm very active in a lot of activities here in East Tennessee ranging from a 3000 member gun club, to a huge charity that raises money for veterans causes, to a 7000 member church, to a 300+ member car club. I'm 70 years old and I've never met a white supremacist or white nationalist. Whoever these people are, they are in the underbelly of America and are nothing more than gnats in the atmosphere. Calling the president these names is a despicable act and beyond reprehensible. Now we have the Speaker of the House and Democrat presidential candidates saying the white

nationalists are an existential threat to the U.S. This is sheer lunacy. This is the type of mental illness that should exclude these people from having guns. Sadly, few Republicans have stood up for our president. Republicans have no spine but what about human decency? As a loyal and patriotic American how can you stand mute when our president is attacked in such a vile manner? How about debunking whole white nationalists as existential threat to the U.S.? But sadly, Republicans are mute.

Now to the issue of the siren call of gun control. The cause of these, and other mass shootings, was NOT guns, it is our sick society. Most of the perpetrators legally obtained their guns. Laws against murder, illegal use of firearms, illegal discharge of firearms, assault with deadly weapons; all of these laws, and no doubt many others, were violated. None of those statutes prevented these crimes, something nobody seems willing to discuss.

We have a society where violence is glorified. Go to a movie or even watch television and the violence is appalling. I refuse to believe that video games don't contribute to the violence in our culture. There are many games where killing is the score by which you win. Denying this is putting your head in the sand. The same Hollywood that advocates for gun confiscation is the same Hollywood that glorifies guns and killing in their products.

The laws we currently have has not stopped the mass killings. The laws we have has not stopped the killings in Chicago, Baltimore, or Los Angeles. So, more laws are not the answer. We need a gut check on our culture.

Let's address so-called "assault rifles." What is an "assault rifle?" When anti-gun rights Sen. Diane Feinstein was writing the 1994 weapons ban bill they needed to call this class of weapons something scary so they called them "assault weapons." This is a made up term conjured solely for the purpose of scaring people. I spent 30 years in the Army as an infantryman. We didn't have assault weapons. So the very term "assault weapons" is a product of the gun control crowd. As Feinstein and her staff was writing the "Assault Weapons Ban" they had a gun catalog and went through the pages picking out pictures of scary looking guns. Their ignorance of guns is just astounding.

Now we have gun banners talking about "weapons of war" and "killing machines" to add to the fear and apprehension created by "assault weapons" naming convention. The AR-15 is used by millions and millions of Americans for sport, hunting, and home defense. It is NOT a weapon of war or a killing machine. As a professional soldier, I would never go to war with any rifle I could buy commercially. The Left has been able to define the language and then police violators of the language via political correctness. The gun control crowd has defined "assault weapons" as scary weapons

and scary weapons are weapons of war and killing machines and thus should not be in the hands of the citizenry. And Republicans are mute.

Let's talk about "universal background checks" as the left dictates. They want the government to control all gun transactions. This is naked government control of the right to keep and bear arms. We have background checks!! The process works when it is applied correctly. There is nothing that can be done if some government agency doesn't due their due diligence and put the required data into the system. This applies with the current background check system and any new system that the Left would dictate. By the way there is NO gun show loophole. If someone at a gun show wants to sell a gun to a customer, they are required, by law, to run a background check. There is nothing that can be done to prevent someone selling a gun illegally, now or with some "enhanced background check." Additionally, the lie that is frequently told that "90% of Americans, even NRA members, support enhanced background checks" is a true fabrication. Let's enforce the current laws including the background check system.

It is worth time mentioning that the Constitution is a document written to preserve individual rights and liberty and to LIMIT the government oversight of those individual rights and liberty. The Founding Fathers felt so strong about the God-given rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights that they listed them. These rights are a sign post that says "government hands off." The government is forbidden to get between these rights and the American citizens.

The government has already gotten between the citizen and the Second Amendment. It started with the National Firearms Act of 1934. These laws were serious infringements of the Second Amendment. Remember the words of the Constitution in the Second Amendment, "...shall not be infringed." How many Republican presidents and Republican majorities in Congress have turned a blind eye to these egregious infringements on our right to keep and bear arms? If you don't know about the histories of impacts of these laws then you are derelict in your duties.

When "universal background checks" was explored by the Obama Administration it was defeated by the outcry of the citizenry. As envisioned by the Obama Administration their "universal background checks" would control every transaction by gun owners. If I wanted to sell a gun to a friend I would have had to go to a licensed gun dealer, pay a fee, and then the buyer would have to undergo a background check. Obama's own Justice Department produced a document that said the only way for "universal background checks" to work was to have a gun registry. My gun is my property and as such I have a right to sell it without asking permission from the government. A logical extension is the government requiring books to have serial numbers and controlling their distribution and sale.

So stay away from some form of “universal background checks.” Now to “Red Flag laws.” Seventeen states have some form of these laws but only a couple of them even mention mental health. None of us wants mentally imbalanced people or terrorists to have guns. But these laws are a slippery slope to another way for the government to get between a citizen and their right to keep and bear arms. The gun grabbers are salivating about this. They want the government determining who is eligible to exercise their Second Amendment rights. The Left wants some type of process like was in the movie *Minority Report* where the government reads the minds of citizens and takes actions to arrest the citizen before they committed some crime. Of course, reading the minds is a bit of hyperbole but these laws would have government people across the country determining that someone who tweeted, made a Facebook post, wrote an email, said something deemed hateful, is a danger to society and they raid that person’s home and take their weapons. This then becomes a Fourth Amendment violation. So we start with a government deciding that something said by a citizen is unacceptable, violating the First Amendment, the government then violates the Fourth Amendment, and deprives a citizen of their Second Amendment right.

Another part of this slippery slope is who reports the “unstable” citizen and then who decides whether the accusation is valid? Maybe a neighbor doesn’t like my MAGA hat and believes the crazy rhetoric of the media, and thus, I’m a white nationalist and therefore a threat and call the Sheriff. The Sheriff then conducts a “no-knock” warrant and breaks in my door in the middle of the night. I think this is a real break-in and defend myself and I am or an officer is shot. Imaginary? Not so, this happened recently to some unlucky homeowner. Who’s to blame? Who will be held accountable? If you pass these types of laws these scenarios will play out over the nation.

“Red Flag laws” are another intrusion/infringement of citizens’ rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

In summary:

American citizens, simply because of their American citizenship, hold God-given rights to defend self and family — and that includes the right to own and use firearms. That God-given right is enshrined in the Constitution, as the Second Amendment.

The Second Amendment doesn’t allow for government to determine whether some have rights to own firearms, versus others who don’t. Seriously: Do we really want government holding this power?

What about the path these “red flag” laws would take under a leftist administration, under Democratic control?

“Red flag” laws bring too many unknowns.

Millions of honest gun owners who didn't use their firearms for mayhem have good reason to feel they are being penalized for crimes they did not commit.

This is not an issue about guns, it's about rights.

These laws are repealing the Bill of Rights one chunk at a time.

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