

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 235
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Dear Subscriber,

Gun control activists are busy in this mid-term election year. A letter signed by 163 House Democrats uses grieving victims of high-profile shootings in Portland, Las Vegas, Seattle and Santa Barbara to push their anti-gun agenda, demanding that Speaker JOHN BOEHNER (R-Ohio) act on a gun control bill.

The letter, circulated by anti-gun Rep. **MIKE THOMPSON** (D-Cal.), and Rep. **CAROL SHEA-PORTER** (D-N.H.), falsely claimed that enacting their background check "reforms" would have prevented these shootings.

MARK GLAZE, former executive director of billionaire **MICHAEL BLOOMBERG's** anti-gun **Mayors Against Illegal Guns**, admits that "nothing we have to offer" would prevent mass shootings.

Senate Majority Leader **HARRY REID** (D-Nev.) said that he may call for a vote on so-called **universal background check** legislation, but had no expectation the legislation would pass, saying, **We need some more votes.** **REID** hoped a vote would help highlight the differences between the two parties when it comes to gun control. **Gun control is rarely an election-year winner.**

Gun control activist group **MomsRising** **exploited their children** at a Capitol Hill rally to urge the Senate to confirm **VIVEK MURTHY**, President **OBAMA's** nominee for surgeon general, shamelessly dressing their youngsters in doctor's scrubs to reinforce the group's message.

MURTHY is a Yale-educated doctor who sees **gun violence** as a public health problem but told lawmakers the issue would not be his "focus" as surgeon general. Senators put **MURTHY's** confirmation on hold in order to avoid forcing their red-state colleagues into a potentially fatal vote.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has found that the **OBAMA** administration is using a program known as **Operation Choke Point** to **destroy firearms companies**. The program was started in 2013 to protect consumers by "choking" alleged fraudsters' access to the banking system.

The Justice Department forces banks and third-party payment processors to **stop accepting payments from companies that are tagged high risk** and are supposedly violating federal law. Documents released by committee chairman **DARRELL ISSA** (R-Cal.) show the federal government lumped the firearms industry in with pornography, drug paraphernalia, escort services, racist materials, Ponzi schemes and online gambling. **The documents showed that Attorney General ERIC HOLDER knew the program was also shutting down legal businesses.** The House has passed an appropriations amendment stopping federal funds to Choke Point.

An amendment by Sen. **JOHN WALSH** (D-MT) to a spending bill would ban the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives from **using federal funds to prevent medical marijuana patients from possessing firearms.**

Currently 22 states and the District of Columbia have statues to allow the legal use of cannabis for authorized patients. However, the ATF has long held that any sale or possession of firearms by those who use marijuana, even if allowed by state law, remains criminal.

ATF has delayed the June 2014 effective date for proposed Rule ATF 41P that could ban purchase of a **suppressor, short-barreled weapon, machine gun, or other National Firearms Act-defined weapon.** The rule would require all "responsible persons" to "receive Chief Law Enforcement Officer authorization," which could **halt purchase of all NFA-regulated items.**

Also in this issue: ● Michigan gets gun owner privacy law ● County gun ordinance in Oregon challenged ● SAF tells U.N. gun rights are human rights ● *"If this is an emergency, hang up and get a gun,"* in our Page 8 Parting Shot.

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

COLORADO CAMPUS GUN BAN PROPOSAL DROPPED BY ITS OWN SUPPORTERS

Safe Campus Colorado is pulling the plug on their statewide ballot initiative to ban concealed weapons on university campuses, hoping to avoid bringing gun rights supporters to the polls in November, a move to protect a number of Democrats in tight races.

Ken Toltz, the group's director, said, "We are non-partisan and don't want this important issue to be caught up in the candidate campaigns, so [we] made the very difficult decision not to submit our petitions for this November's ballot."

Dave Kopel, research director for the libertarian Independence Institute, said, "It's eminently sensible and prudent for the Democratic establishment in Colorado in 2014 to say we don't want a gun ballot issue out there. Whatever happens with that ballot issue, it's going bring more pro-gun voters to the polls and they will probably vote also in the candidate races for the more pro-gun candidates."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MAYOR WARY OF SECOND AMENDMENT LAWSUITS

The D.C. Council and the mayor are at odds over a proposed law that would take guns away from people who have a temporary restraining order - federal law bans guns with permanent restraining orders. Councilmember Mary Cheh's bill eliminates the period before a registered gun owner has a chance to defend himself against violence charges in court. Mayor Vincent Gray said "I just can't imagine it passing without significant changes, especially constitutional issues around Second Amendment rights and due process." Gray said he will veto the bill, but Cheh says she won't back down.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR SIGNS FIVE PRO-GUN MEASURES INTO LAW

Gov. Rick Scott approved several pro-gun bills that covered everything from clarifying use of force to ending insurance discrimination against gun owners. One of the most controversial was HB89, the "Warning Shot" bill, which makes it legal to display a weapon in a self-defense situation with proper justifications. Marissa Alexander, a South Florida mother, was sentenced to a 20-year mandatory sentence in 2012 for firing a handgun during a domestic dispute under the state's "10-20-life" laws. Another new law stops discriminatory insurance practices against firearms owners, allowing lawsuits against companies that cancel or deny a policy due to a firearms collection.

IN THE STATES

CHICAGO COUNCIL THWARTS COURT ORDER WITH EXPENSIVE RULES FOR GUN SHOPS

To satisfy a court order to allow gun shops after U.S. District Court Judge Edmond Chang overturned the Illinois city's ban, the Chicago City Council unanimously agreed to allow gun shops, but impose so many expensive rules such as videotaping every sale, new exterior lighting, surveillance cameras and alarm systems, as well as restrictive storage of guns and ammunition, that nobody could afford to operate a gun shop, effectively violating the court order. Mayor Rahm Emanuel expects lawsuits over the new ordinance.

WICHITA CITY COUNCIL RELUCTANTLY REPEALS GUN CONTROL ORDINANCES

Reluctantly, the Wichita, Kansas, City Council is repealing a spate of local gun control ordinances in order to comply with a recently enacted state law nullifying county and city statutes infringing on the right to own, carry, and transport firearms within the Sunflower State. Among the Wichita ordinances taken off the books are laws requiring private security officers to have gun permits and safety training. The City Council also repealed ordinances on possession of guns, knives and air rifles. Members were told the state still prohibits people from carrying knives with the intent to harm another person, but the city can't outlaw knives in public buildings. All such ordinances passed by cities and counties must be repealed as mandated by HB 2578, signed into law by Governor Sam Brownback in April 2014.

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MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES DEMAND GUN BILL REWRITE

Jim Wallace, executive director of the Gun Owners Action League, is calling for a rewrite of House Bill 4121, "An Act Relative to the Reduction of Gun Violence." After an hour long conversation with bill sponsor Speaker Robert DeLeo and a successful second amendment rally, Wallace said that mental health and school groups have also shown opposition. "My biggest complaint with this bill is the issue of 'suitability' when issuing Firearms ID cards. Suitability is one of the most widely abused problems in Massachusetts; expanding that would be ridiculous. We want this bill amended so it can fight crime rather than law abiding gun owners."

MICHIGAN GOVERNOR SIGNS LAWS PROTECTING GUN OWNER PRIVACY

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed laws exempting gun records from the state's Freedom of Information Act. The legislation codifies a 1999 Michigan Supreme Court decision that found disclosure of gun registry records is an invasion of privacy. The information will still be available to law enforcement officials for certain purposes, with limits. Michigan considered the law after a New York newspaper published the names and addresses of gun owners in two counties in 2012.

NORTH CAROLINA REPEALS 1935 GUN REGISTRATION LAW

In a victory for gun rights, a long forgotten Jim Crow-era firearm registry in Durham County was repealed by the North Carolina state house by a unanimous vote. The law, enacted in 1935, had required gun owners to register their firearms with the county clerk. Violations of the law were punishable as misdemeanors. Repealing the law was a bipartisan effort by the Durham County Republican Party and local Democratic Sen. Mike Woodward.

IN THE STATES

ANTI-GUN BALLOT INITIATIVE FILED IN NEVADA

Anti-gun group Nevadans for Background Checks, likely affiliated with New York City ex-Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety, filed an initiative petition with the Secretary of State. The 2016 ballot initiative petition seeks to criminalize most private transfers and mandate background checks for nearly all gun transfers in Nevada, with very limited exceptions. This overreaching proposal is similar to legislation passed in 2013, which was staunchly opposed by a majority of Nevada citizens, and was vetoed by Governor Brian Sandoval (R).

OHIO CITY SCRAPS GUN CONTROL MEASURES PREEMPTED BY THE STATE

Shaker Heights, Ohio, City Council has repealed some local gun control measures that could have wound up in the crosshairs of a citizen lawsuit. Although they had not been enforced since an Ohio Supreme Court decision prohibiting local bans on assault weapons and sales of firearms, Shaker's laws were still on the books. In 2010, the Ohio Supreme Court upheld the state's General Assembly, which also gave people the right to sue over such local ordinances.

WASHINGTON STATE'S BACKGROUND CHECK INITIATIVE BATTLE

The Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WACOPS), the state's largest and oldest law enforcement group, dealt a serious blow to the Seattle-elite-funded Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility (WAGR) in a battle of the Initiatives. WAGR's 18-page Initiative 594 proposes "universal background checks" for even private sales, while one-page Initiative 591 requires background checks to comply with a uniform national standard. I-591 is sponsored by Protect Our Gun Rights (POGR), a coalition of gun collectors, sportsmen and women, target shooters and law enforcement professionals. Its most vocal supporter is gun rights advocate Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and author of I-591.

WEST VIRGINIA WINS NICS EXEMPTION FOR CONCEALED CARRY LICENSE HOLDERS

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey has announced that holders of a valid state Concealed Handgun License (CHL) issued on or after June 4, 2014 will be exempt from additional background checks when purchasing a firearm from a licensed gun dealer. The exemption was signed into law by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin as House Bill 4186, sponsored by Delegate Rupie Phillips (D-24), during the 2014 legislative session. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) recognized the exemption in an open letter to Federal Firearms Licensed Dealers in West Virginia. This exemption eliminates the previous duplicative process.

SHERIFFS VOW TO APPEAL RULING UPHOLDING COLORADO GUN-CONTROL LAWS

Colorado sheriffs vowed to appeal a ruling by a federal judge upholding the constitutionality of the state's 2013 gun-control laws limiting ammunition-magazine capacity to 15 rounds and mandating background checks for all gun purchases. Weld County Sheriff John Cooke said that while the 55 sheriffs who filed the lawsuit respect the judge's decision, "we believe that it is plainly wrong on the law and on the facts. We will take this case to the United States Supreme Court," said Cooke.

SAF SEEKS INJUNCTION AGAINST MASSACHUSETTS HANDGUN SALES REGULATIONS

The Second Amendment Foundation, joined by Commonwealth Second Amendment, Inc., two commercial dealers and six private citizens, filed a lawsuit today in federal court in Massachusetts, seeking an injunction against the State Attorney General's enforcement of a regulation requiring a "load indicator" on a semiautomatic handgun as being "unconstitutionally vague and ambiguous:" it does not define what this device is, or what it is intended to do.

JUDGE WEIGHS REWRITE OF MISSOURI GUN RIGHTS PLAN

Cole County, Missouri, Judge Jon Beetem has denied a request to stop election officials from distributing absentee ballots for a proposed constitutional amendment dealing with gun rights. The lawsuit was brought by St. Louis Police Chief Samuel Dotson III and anti-gun activist Rebecca Morgan, claiming the ballot summary fails to note that the measure would subject laws restricting gun rights to strict legal scrutiny.

**IN THE
COURTS**

SUPREME COURT RULES AGAINST 'STRAW PURCHASERS' OF GUNS

The Supreme Court dealt a rare blow to gun owners by ruling that purchasers must report when they are buying firearms for other people. The 5-4 decision upheld two lower courts that had ruled against so-called straw purchasers. Justice Elena Kagan wrote for the slim majority, "No piece of information is more important under federal firearms law than the identity of a gun's purchaser – the person who acquires a gun as a result of a transaction with a licensed dealer."

COURT UPHOLDS SOUTHWEST BORDER MULTIPLE GUN SALES REPORTING

The Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld ATF's authority to require federal firearms licensees in the Southwest Border States to report multiple sales of certain semiautomatic rifles. The appellate decision stems from a lawsuit brought by National Shooting Sports Foundation-backed store owners arguing ATF overstepped the authority granted it by Congress when it issued its July 2011 demand letter mandating nearly 8,700 FFLs in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas to report sales information they were not otherwise required to keep.

SAF SUES NORTH CAROLINA OVER LAW BARRING CCW PERMITS FOR LEGAL RESIDENTS

The Second Amendment Foundation filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina on behalf of Felicity M. Todd Veasey, an Australian citizen who legally resides in the state, but cannot obtain a concealed carry permit under a state law that only allows citizens to get such permits. SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb said, "She can legally possess a concealed firearm in North Carolina, but only on her own property as the law now stands. We're challenging that, just as we have challenged similar laws."

POLICE MUST ALLOW SECOND AMENDMENT ADVOCATE TO POST VIDEO

Police Officer Jerry Bledsoe sent a written apology to Second Amendment advocate Jordan Klaffer, and agreed to pay damages, court costs and attorneys' fees. Klaffer had posted a video of his arrest for noise while shooting on his own property, showing Bledsoe harassing Klaffer. Klaffer and the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri accepted the apology and asked the United States District Court to dismiss their First Amendment lawsuit filed in February on Klaffer's behalf.

COURT RULES AGAINST FLORIDA GOV. RICK SCOTT IN COUNTY GUN CONTROL FIGHT

Palm Beach County has won a key round in its legal fight aimed at reinstating local gun control laws across the state in opposition to the state preemption law. Circuit Court Judge John Cooper sided with the county by finding it unconstitutional for a governor to remove a county official from office for trying to enforce local gun control rules. State lawmakers maintain that they are the only ones empowered to pass firearms regulations in Florida.

OREGON'S MULTNOMAH COUNTY FACES LEGAL CHALLENGE OVER GUN ORDINANCE

Multnomah County is in court for its controversial gun control ordinance, sued by five county residents saying the county doesn't have the authority to impose gun control on its eight incorporated cities. Statewide experts say no Oregon county has attempted to impose a criminal ordinance on cities in recent memory. If a Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge backs the county in the gun control case, experts say, it could open the door for counties to impose not only gun control but also a wide array of other legislation in cities.

SAF DEMANDS IMMEDIATE FIX TO CONNECTICUT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE BLOCKING

The Second Amendment Foundation has demanded that school officials in Connecticut's Regional School District 14 immediately stop blocking websites of gun groups, including SAF. Legal action is ready. SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb, said, "Our website was blocked, yet students could see websites of the anti-gun Newtown Action Alliance and others."

IN THE COURTS

GEORGIA MAN SUES FEDS FOR DENYING GUN PERMIT AT LONG-TIME CAMPSITE

David James and GeorgiaCarry.org filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia alleging violation of James' Second Amendment rights after he was denied permission to carry a gun onto U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property where James camps in a tent several weeks per year at McKaskey Creek, located on Lake Allatoona in Cartersville. A similar suit in Idaho was successful.

GUN RIGHTS GROUP GETS OK TO AMEND LAWSUIT AGAINST WEST VIRGINIA CITY

The West Virginia Citizens Defense League, seeking to block Charleston's restrictions that prohibit guns from all parks and recreation buildings, will be allowed to amend its lawsuit under a new law that rendered most of their previous arguments moot. The group's amendment argues that the new ordinance is contrary to state law. Kanawha Circuit Judge James Stucky granted the group's motion to amend.

VIRGINIA COURT CONVICTS GUN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ADAM KOKESH

Gun rights activist Adam Kokesh was convicted of drug and gun charges in a Fairfax County court, but he called the raid that led to his arrest "political persecution" for posting online a video of himself apparently loading and racking a shotgun in the District of Columbia's Freedom Plaza. He entered a no contest plea in Circuit Court to two felonies: possession of 10 guns and drugs, including LSD, marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and mushrooms. Kokesh faces a maximum of 15 years in prison at a September sentencing.

APPEALS COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO 6-SHORT-BARRELED 12 SHOTGUN LAW

A California District Court of Appeal has ruled that a law making it a felony to possess a shotgun with a barrel shorter than 26 inches does not violate the Second Amendment or the Equal Protection Clause, either on its face or as applied to a person who possesses the weapon at home with the sole intent to use it for self-defense. The court affirmed Kenneth Wesley Brown's conviction by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Benjamin Davidian, following a jury trial. Brown was sentenced to five years' felony probation, serving 180 days in jail, reduced to 90 days if he completed an anger management course.

FEDERAL COURT UPHOLDS FIRING OF PHARMACIST OVER DEFENSIVE GUN USE IN ROBBERY

The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has found that Walgreens properly exercised its rights when it fired pharmacist Jeremy Hoven for using his handgun in defense during a robbery. Hoven is a lawful concealed-carry permit holder. "This ruling is another sign that private businesses have become one of the most important battlefields over the right to bear arms," said Adam Winkler, legal scholar and professor at the UCLA School of Law.

GUN LOBBYIST 'VINDICATED' AS CHARGES DROPPED IN PLEA DEAL

Utah's top gun lobbyist said he has been vindicated after charges of domestic violence, threats and criminal mischief were dismissed in a plea deal. "I've been cleared of all these untrue and unfounded allegations. I've been vindicated," said Clark Aposhian, known statewide for his work with the Utah Shooting Sports Council. "It's unfortunate it took over a year to have that happen, at a great cost to taxpayers and the Cottonwood Heights neighborhood, as well as to myself."

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **New Orleans, Louisiana:** Everybody loves Gabby Giffords – just not necessarily on the campaign trail. When the gun control advocacy group led by the former congresswoman from Arizona threw its support behind several endangered Senate Democrats including Sen. Mark Udall in Colorado and Sen. Mary L. Landrieu in Louisiana, the candidates carefully distanced themselves from Ms. Giffords and boasted about their strident defense of Second Amendment rights. The message was clear: Democrats from pro-gun states want ex-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords to stay away.

● **Chicago, Illinois:** On the streets, Richard Hernandez was supposed to stop violence as an “interrupter” in the celebrated CeaseFire program. But Chicago cops have another name for him: rapist. Hernandez faces 36 counts charging him with sexually assaulting and kidnapping a teenage girl while he worked for the program. He’s among at least nine employees of the anti-violence program to face serious criminal charges in recent years.

● **Kingston, Jamaica:** The island nation of Jamaica, which kept England’s gun laws and strengthened them when it became independent in 1962, is in desperate need of something it lacks. A morgue. Jamaica reports murder rates in the 55 to 65 per 100,000 population, but the real murder rate compiled from local media reports is between 80 and 95 per 100,000, up four times from Jamaica’s independence day. If Jamaica needs anything, it either needs a morgue to deal with the steadily increasing homicide rates – or it needs to repeal the counterproductive gun laws that put the country in that insane situation.

● **Denver, Colorado:** Republicans in a pair of suburban Denver districts nominated conservative, pro-gun rights candidates to represent them in races that could give the GOP a majority in the state Senate for the first time in a decade. There were also eight Republican primaries in House districts. However, the GOP’s chances of reclaiming control of the House are far slimmer than in the Senate.

● **United Nations, New York:** The United Nations is “on a collision course with the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment and the natural right of all people to defend themselves,” the Second Amendment Foundation’s Operations Director Julianne Versnel said in a statement to the U.N.’s Programme of Action (POA) meeting in New York. POA’s full name is “Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.” Translation: While it poses as an effort to control the illicit arms trade, it’s actually the U.N.’s gun-control program. Versnel said, “The Programme of Action seems unable to acknowledge anything beyond the simplistic notion that civilian firearms are inherently evil. The right of women, indeed the right of men and women, to self-defense is a human right. The U.N. has failed to recognize this human right, she stated, whether it deals with POA activities, the infamous Arms Trade Treaty or even its own Human Rights Council.”

● **Boise, Idaho:** Boise State University forced student group Young Americans for Liberty to pay a last-minute \$465 fee to hire three extra guards and two city police officers to patrol a speech by Dick Heller, who won the 2008 Supreme Court case that recognized the right to keep and bear arms as an individual right. “We do charge campus groups for security when it is deemed a necessary component of an event, based on threat assessments,” BSU communications staffer Kathleen Tuck said. “In this case, there was concern that a community member had been encouraging folks to open carry.” But YAL said the group specifically warned against open carrying in the official event announcement. BSU would not say if they ever charged any other group for such a phony reason.

● **Washington, D.C.:** Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton lashed out at opponents of gun control regulations, saying they hold a viewpoint that “terrorizes” the majority of Americans. “We cannot let a minority of people, and that’s what it is, it is a minority of people, hold a viewpoint that terrorizes the majority of people,” Clinton said during a live CNN town hall.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Washington, D.C.:** The Violence Policy Center is finally acknowledging that its goal is not just banning "assault weapons," but a ban on all semi-automatic, detachable magazine-fed firearms. Washington-based VPC executive director Josh Sugarmann recently said in an op-ed for the *Sacramento Bee*, "There's a common thread that binds the massacres in Isla Vista and in Newtown, and in many other mass shootings in recent years. Killers used semi-automatic firearms with detachable ammunition magazines." Of course, moving the goal post is routine with the gun control mob, and won't stop until the goal is a ban on all civilian ownership of firearms.

● **New York City:** Mark Glaze, former executive director of former NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg's Everytown For Gun Safety, a group that used to be called Mayors Against Illegal Guns [MAIG], is admitting in an exit interview with the *Wall Street Journal* that the proposals outlined by the gun control group and sent to Congress, would not have prevented mass shootings in the past and won't stop them in the future. Gun control isn't about solving problems, but giving the government more control over your life.

● **Marion, Illinois:** The South Porte Bank of Marion is not only allowing its employees to carry concealed handguns, they are letting everyone know they always have. After a series of armed robberies in the area, including one at a nearby retail store, the bank is making the fact that they have had armed staff in the facility since it opened in 2011, become public knowledge. In doing so, they have even hung signs on the institution's entrances that proudly state, "This property protected by Smith and Wesson."

● **Dallas, Texas:** Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America called on their troops to join the "stroller jam" outside of Targets shareholders meeting in Dallas to protest open carry in their stores. Unfortunately for them, a group of 12 showed up. *Dallas News* reported only one woman showed up with a stroller and her granddaughter. The dozen women were holding signs that stated, "Texas moms expect more" which is a play on Target's motto of "Expect More. Pay Less."

● **Nashville, Tennessee:** The number of gun permits issued in Tennessee has nearly doubled between 2012 and 2013. According to the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, the state issued 192,613 handgun carry permits in 2013. Of that 58,833 were given to women and 133,780 were given to men. Compare that to 2012. That year the state issued a total of 114,031 permits. 32,354 were given to women and 81,677 were given to men.

● **Portland, Oregon:** Democratic Congressman Earl Blumenauer from Oregon's 3rd District reacted to the murder at Reynolds High School in Troutdale that claimed the life of a student and concluded with the shooter's suicide. Blumenauer tweeted: "Another shooting. I always hope tragedy will inspire action. Simple common sense steps make difference. Start w/universal background checks." Even gun control groups admit that passing more laws won't prevent murders committed with guns. The president of gun control group Washington CeaseFire remarked, "California has some of the strictest laws in the country on gun violence. I don't think that there's any law that would have prevented the tragedy in Santa Barbara."

● **Tucson, Arizona:** Americans for Responsible Solutions, led by former Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, former astronaut Mark Kelly, said it will support a slate of nine Democrats and two Republicans in 2014 – and perhaps more. The group has raised about \$14.5 million since it was founded in January 2013 and plans to spend money on television and online advertising and direct mail to help the list of mostly incumbent candidates. The group plans to advertise in some of the Democrats' top Senate races, helping Sens. Mark Udall of Colorado, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Al Franken of Minnesota and Iowa Rep. Bruce Braley, who is seeking the state's open Senate seat. It also intends to help Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine.

Parting Shot

IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, HANG UP AND GET A GUN

In Port Richey, Florida. John Breau, his wife, baby and stepmother were asleep in the middle of the night when four robbers with handguns broke into their home and woke the family with threats and violence. The thugs demanded money and drugs.

They severely beat Mr. Breau, pistol-whipped his wife and pointed a gun at the child, saying they would kill the baby if they didn't get what they want.

Breau gave the robbers \$1,600 and the family medicine chest containing labeled prescription bottles and several unlabeled containers.

The four robbers left with their loot and Breau called Pasco County 911.

Then began an unbelievably massive failure caught on a recording that county officials later released. A fire-qualified 911 operator answered Breau's call and tried to transfer him to a law enforcement-qualified operator.

Breau heard a pre-recorded message saying, "If this is an emergency, hang up and dial 911, thank you for calling the Pasco Sheriff's office non-emergency number."

The fire-qualified 911 operator then says, "Alright sir, please give me one second."

Breau now spots new trouble that won't give him a second - the thugs have returned. He tells the bungling 911 operator, "They're in my driveway." The 911 operator asks, "What are they doing?" Breau responds "They're trying to shoot us."

Then you can hear Breau screaming to the men who entered his home, "I have family in here and I have a gun."

Then you can hear Breau's wife scream on the tape. Finally, a law enforcement-qualified operator says "Please state your name." Breau gives enough information that deputies rush off - to the wrong address.

By this time the robbers are in the house and Breau realizes he's on his own. His wife gets him his shotgun and while the cops are trying to find the right address, a gunfight starts. The thugs see that their victim has a shotgun and turn to flee. Breau blasts one and the other three run for it.

All were caught; the wife recognized them as the notorious Reverdes brothers and Joseph Rich, with robbery and drug rap sheets many pages long. Stephen Reverdes was found hiding under a car and taken for medical treatment.

John Breau will not be charged, thanks to Florida's castle doctrine law.

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Verdes

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