

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 256

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Dear Subscriber,

California Democrat REP. JACKIE SPEIER has introduced H.R.4748, the Imported Assault Weapons Ban of 2016, a bill that would prohibit gun dealers from importing so-called assault weapons.

Thirty-two complicit Democrats signed on as co-sponsors of the bill, which was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill has been called the partial assault weapons ban because it would only apply to foreign guns, not those that are manufactured in the United States.

SPEIER'S bill would burden the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) with publishing a list in the Federal Register each year naming assault weapons that are prohibited from being imported into the country. The list would include high-powered firearms, such as Russian-made AK-47s, that SPEIER says are not suitable or readily adaptable for sporting purposes."

The Director of the ATF would also be required to submit an annual report on the implementation of the Act to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

Trying to justify her superfluous measure, SPEIER said, "Cheap foreign assault weapons are a favorite tool of cartels, mass shooters and even ISIS, which used guns that had been imported to the United States to carry out the Paris attacks, a claim not confirmed by U.S. officials.

The Democrat bill is highly unlikely to pass in a Republican-controlled Congress.

The OBAMA administration is facing congressional scrutiny for blocking more than a quarter-million military veterans from owning guns. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reported more than 257,000 former members of the military who cannot manage their finances to the FBI's list of people who are not allowed to own guns.

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman JOHNNY ISAKSON (R-Ga.) and Sen. CHUCK GRASSLEY (R-Iowa) wrote in a letter to VA Secretary ROBERT McDONALD, saying the VA's practice has made the National Instant Criminal Background Check System into a national gun ban list and placement on the list precludes the ownership and possession of firearms.

The senators called the practice "highly suspect" and said veterans' ability to manage their own finances is totally unrelated to whether they should be prohibited from owning a gun.

The VA defended itself with a shoddy sidestep, answering a complaint that had not been made: "From time to time, media has reported that VA 'confiscates' veterans' firearms," said a VA spokesman in a prepared statement.

"This is simply not true. VA has no authority to confiscate or 'seize' anyone's firearms."

Of course not, but that's not the complaint. In truth, VA bureaucrats know exactly what they are accused of but won't reply to the real complaint.

VA doesn't seize guns, but the FBI does, and the VA sends them reports that lead to confiscating veterans' firearms and blocking their right to keep and bear firearms. That has to stop.

Also in this issue: ● Mother shoots burglar in Guns Save Lives ● Two stories on ending the Marianas gun ban ● California Sheriffs oppose gun control initiative ● Gun Control Study Not Even Good Propaganda in our Page 8 Parting Shot.

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Washington, D.C.:** The group created by former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to push for tighter control on the sale of guns is merging with a group focused on the legal issues surrounding gun control. The merger brings together the notoriety of Giffords' Americans for Responsible Solutions in Washington with the legal shrewdness of the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco. For now, the two groups will retain separate names and separate offices. "We are thrilled to be joining forces with our longtime partners at the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence," Giffords and her husband, Mark Kelly, said in a statement. "By coming together we can do more to take on the gun lobby, deliver even more victories for common sense, and save lives."

● **Brussels, Belgium:** Twelve days before the Islamist attack on Brussels, Finnish volunteer militias on the Russian frontier, boar and elk hunters and the Swiss army's pensioner reserve won reprieve from tighter European gun control following last year's Islamist attacks on Paris. At a meeting of EU interior ministers in Brussels, officials accepted an array of objections and agreed to review draft plans that could have barred minors from owning firearms, restricted online weapons sales and, notably, banned private use of most semi-automatic rifles, like the Kalashnikovs used by Islamic State militants in the French capital in November. EU and French officials, who have pushed to block loopholes, stressed that after the return to the drafting table the new regulations were still on schedule to be agreed by governments in June before sending to EU lawmakers. Diplomats and officials said the review should secure exemptions for special interests, although the subsequent killings of 32 people by suicide bombers at Brussels Airport and a metro station may influence the decision.

● **Ogden, Utah:** An Ogden restaurant is generating local buzz for the political statement it's making in support of the Second Amendment. Sea Bears serves seafood. Customers rave about their fish and chips, but they're also talking about the owner and his family, who open carry handguns. Owner Tony Siebers greets and seats the customers, with a 9mm tucked in his waistband. His wife, Monika, prepares and serves the food, with her own semi-automatic neatly at her side. Their twin sons run the kitchen, frying the fish and preparing the salad with twin .357 revolvers holstered at the ready. One customer, named Mark, said he came to Sea Bears after hearing about their stance on guns. "The food was great and I support what they're doing. I think it's a great program and we need more of that."

● **Toms River, New Jersey:** Actor Carlo Goias, whose stage name is Carlo Bellario, is facing a decade behind bars for running afoul of the state's gun laws for holding an airsoft gun while filming a low-budget movie. When he was arrested, Goias was in a chase scene playing the body guard of a drug dealer in the unfinished film "Vendetta Games." He was just pointing the gun out a car window without shooting - the gunshots would be added to the sound track later. He was charged under New Jersey's strict gun law that requires permits for firearms, including the airsoft gun. In a bigger budget film, the production company would deal with all that, but this ridiculous over-reaction for an actor holding an airsoft gun in a shoestring movie got state lawmakers saying the case highlights the need for New Jersey to change its gun laws.

● **Los Angeles, California:** Hank Williams, Jr. is not afraid of controversy, but he says his new song "God and Guns" doesn't fall into that category. Though he didn't write it himself, Williams says the song fits him perfectly. "I thought, 'Wow, it sounds like I wrote it,'" he notes. Originally performed by Lynyrd Skynyrd, the song is an anthem about the importance of keeping God and guns in American society and fighting against politicians who disagree.

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ARMED CITIZEN WITH A CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT SAVES STORE CLERK

A customer shot and killed a hatchet-wielding man attacking a clerk at a convenience store in Burien, Washington. About 5:45 a.m., Steven Blacktongue, 43, walked into a 7-Eleven store wearing a mask and swung a hatchet at a customer, said King County Sheriff's Sgt. Cindi West. Blacktongue then went behind the counter and attacked the 58-year-old clerk, never saying anything. Within seconds, a customer pulled out a handgun and shot and killed Blacktongue, likely saving the clerk's life, West said. The 60-year-old customer has a permit to carry a concealed handgun. The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said the incident underscores the value and necessity of concealed carry. "Police and sheriff's deputies can't be everywhere all the time, and the public is becoming more cognizant of that," CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb stated. "People are taking responsibility for their own safety, and that certainly applies to what happened in Burien."

**GUNS
SAVE
LIVES**

MOTHER SHOTS BURGLAR THAT BROKE IN THROUGH BABY'S WINDOW

On a recent afternoon in Indianapolis, a mother heard the window in her baby's room being shattered. She was in the kitchen feeding her infant and called to her husband in the next room, "I think somebody's breaking in the house." She quickly handed the baby over to him and listened as unmistakable noises told her an intruder was coming through the broken window. She ran to her bedroom and took out her pistol. She was coming out of her bedroom when the burglar emerged from the baby's room with a handgun at the ready. He aimed and shot at her - and missed. She fired back multiple times, hitting the intruder with every shot. He fell to the floor totally disabled and his gun went skidding across the floor. The husband called police, who responded and took the intruder to an Indianapolis hospital. Dispatchers said the intruder was also carrying zip ties and a walkie-talkie. The infant was not hurt during the incident.

MAN SHOT AND KILLED BY PERSON HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO ROB

In Hampton, Virginia, 18-year-old Jafari Mitchell and a 15-year-old male approached a 71-year-old man, displayed a gun and demanded money. The 71-year-old man, fearing for his safety, pulled out his own gun and shot Mitchell dead. The 15-year-old fled from the area. The 71-year-old man remained on scene and called 911. The 15-year-old was caught, charged with one count of attempted robbery and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and remains in custody at a secure detention facility. The 71-year-old man cooperated with the investigation. No charges are being sought against him in the shooting.

HOMEOWNER SHOTS AND KILLS BURGLAR IN SOUTHWEST HOUSTON

Residents say break-ins and crimes are far too common in their southwest Houston neighborhood where a homeowner shot and killed a burglar. Police said a man tried to break into a townhouse on Maplecrest Drive around 1:30 a.m. and that the homeowner, who is new to the neighborhood, heard someone break a glass panel on his front door. He went downstairs with his gun, saw the would-be intruder and opened fire. Neighbors who heard the shots later told police that a neighbor was burglarized hours before the intruder was killed, although Houston police did not connect it with the shooting incident. The homeowner who shot the intruder was not charged but the case has been forwarded to a Harris County grand jury.

ARMED SELF DEFENSE WORKED IN MISSISSIPPI

The slaying of a wanted murder suspect in Vicksburg, Mississippi by people he was holding hostage underscores the necessity of having a firearm for self-defense and family protection, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said. Rafael Arnez McCloud had tied up a husband and wife after forcing his way into their home at knifepoint. The couple has a 5-year-old son, who was not harmed. At one point during the ordeal, the husband broke free, was stabbed in the upper back and tied up again. But the couple was able to get a handgun in the home, and McCloud was fatally shot. CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb said, "This story puts the lie to arguments by anti-gunners that guns should not be kept in homes with young children. The presence of a handgun in that Vicksburg home kept this family alive. A tragedy was averted because a family had a gun and used it."

SAF APPLAUDS SCOTUS FOR REVERSING MASSACHUSETTS COURT GUN RULING

The Second Amendment Foundation was delighted by the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of a court ruling in Massachusetts that upheld that state's ban on stun guns, sending the case back to the state's Supreme Judicial Court. A woman named Jaime Caetano was convicted after police found a stun gun in her purse while she was in a parking lot. She told them it was for self-defense and argued that she had a right to carry it for defense. "This ruling instructed the state judges to reconsider the individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb.

ILLINOIS JUDGE TOSSES LAWSUIT AGAINST SUBURBS OVER GUN SHOP REGULATION

Cook County Circuit Judge Franklin Ulysses Valderrama abruptly ended an attempt by a coalition of Chicago community activists, including Fr. Michael Pfleger and others, to use an Illinois civil rights law to force suburban communities to more stringently regulate gun shops operating within their borders, who the activists say are responsible for a disproportionate share of the firearms used by criminals and gangbangers to terrorize Chicago's poorest neighborhoods. Judge Valderrama dismissed in its entirety the complaint brought against the villages of Riverdale and Lincolnwood by a group known as The Coalition for Safe Chicago Communities.

**IN THE
COURTS**

PENNSYLVANIA COURT REVIEWS LAW ON LOCAL GUN CONTROL MEASURES

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court was urged by gun rights activists to revive a law that would let pro-gun groups located anywhere in the United States pursue lawsuits against towns and cities that enact gun-control measures. The law was passed in the final hours of the 2014 legislative session, and included in a bill that concerned the theft of scrap metal. Pennsylvania law prohibits legislators from forcing votes on more than one subject in a single bill to thwart deal-making. The Commonwealth Court later overturned the law because of the way it was passed, but not before dozens of municipalities repealed gun-control regulations rather than risk a lawsuit. The outcome of this case is in doubt.

MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT EXPANDS GUN RIGHTS, KNOCKS EMPLOYERS

The state Supreme Court says workers can't be fired for having guns lawfully locked in their cars at work, even if the employer has a rule barring weapons. The unanimous ruling came in the case of Robert Swindol versus Aurora Flight Sciences, which fired Swindol for having a gun in his locked car. He was licensed to carry it. He sued, claiming defamation and wrongful termination. The high court determined that the Legislature had established policy banning such firings for lawful gun possession, meaning Aurora would be liable for Swindol's firing.

ANTONIN SCALIA'S DEATH HALTS LAWSUIT TO FIGHT NEW YORK GUN CONTROL LAW

The New York Rifle and Pistol Association decided against filing a petition asking the U. S. Supreme Court to hear its case to strike down Gov. Cuomo's 2013 gun control law because of the recent death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. They fear the conservative Scalia's death will make winning the case virtually impossible. "It's just the wrong time," said Tom King, Rifle and Pistol Association president. King said his lawyers advised that going forward could damage the case because the High Court at the very least would likely deliver a split 4-4 decision that would leave the law in place. "The Second Amendment is our client and that's what we have to protect," King said.

NEW JUDGE RULES THAT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CAN KEEP ENFORCING LAW

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly has ruled that the District of Columbia can continue to enforce its gun-permitting system, while she considers a closely watched constitutional challenge to the city's requirement that applicants show "good reason" before obtaining permits to carry a concealed handgun in public. Kollar-Kotelly's decision reversed a ruling last May by U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Scullin Jr. who barred the city from enforcing what courts called the "good reason/ other proper reason" regulation. Scullin had ruled the provision "impinges on Plaintiffs' Second Amendment right to bear arms." A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit said that Scullin should not have handled the case - it went beyond the bounds of his temporary assignment. An appeal is pending.

APPEALS COURT SAYS COLORADO SHERIFFS CAN'T SUE OVER GUN LAWS

A large group of Colorado sheriffs who sued to revoke two controversial state gun laws as unconstitutional lost in the trial court and now the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled the sheriffs and other plaintiffs didn't show they were sufficiently harmed by the new gun restrictions and should not have been allowed to sue in the first place. The ruling means that two laws passed in 2013 – one that expanded background checks on firearms purchases and another that limited the capacity of ammunition magazines – remain in effect. The appeals court judges did not decide whether the laws are constitutional. The sheriffs will file a new lawsuit.

WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT TAKES ON DISPUTED GUN CASE

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has agreed to review a city of Madison policy banning guns on Madison Metro buses that was upheld last year by a state appeals court. Wisconsin Carry, a gun rights advocacy group, is appealing a decision by the state 4th District Court of Appeals that upheld a lower court ruling that Madison's gun ban on city buses does not violate Wisconsin's state law. Wisconsin Carry contends that state law preempts an agency of a local unit of government from regulating the carrying of firearms.

IN THE COURTS

FEDERAL JUDGE RULES NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HANDGUN BAN UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The Second Amendment Foundation won a major victory when a federal judge for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) declared the ban on handguns to be unconstitutional under the Second Amendment. "This is a big win for the Second Amendment," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. CNMI is governed under "a Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America." Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona noted that several provisions of the Constitution are applicable to the Commonwealth through that Covenant, including the Second Amendment. *Read more on Page 6.*

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT TO HEAR OPEN CARRY CASE IN JUNE

The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in June in a challenge to a state law that bars people from openly carrying firearms. Justices issued an order scheduling the arguments in the challenge filed by Dale Norman, who was arrested in 2012 in Fort Pierce while openly carrying a gun in a holster. After a jury found Norman guilty of a misdemeanor charge, the 4th District Court of Appeal upheld the state law, ruling it does not violate constitutional rights to bear arms. Norman then appealed to the Supreme Court, which said in October that it would take up the case. Mr. Norman is represented by Florida Carry's Lead Counsel, attorney Eric J. Friday.

GUN RIGHTS LAWSUIT AGAINST SHAWNEE REMAINS IN US DISTRICT COURT

A U.S. District Court judge is determining whether to dismiss a federal lawsuit filed against Shawnee, Kansas, asking for \$3 million, claiming the city violated the plaintiffs' Second and Fourth Amendment rights in 2013, or side with the plaintiffs through a summary judgment. Jonathan Clark filed the federal lawsuit arguing the city did not have the constitutional right to search his truck, confiscate a loaded handgun, and charge him with unlawful possession of a firearm. The ordinance was repealed in 2014, when the state passed a law that said no city or county could pass a law that "governs the purchase, transfer, ownership, storage, carrying or transporting of firearms or ammunition," but Shawnee filed to dismiss anyway.

FEDERAL LAWSUIT COULD RESTORE GUN RIGHTS TO NONVIOLENT FELONS

Democratic Congressional candidate and airline executive Barry Michaels – who served time for white-collar crimes in the 1990s – is seeking a class action lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of millions of felons currently denied the right to bear arms. Filed in U.S. District Court, the suit argues that non-violent felons who completed their sentences more than five years ago and have not committed any crimes since release should not be denied the right to own a firearm provided they do not fail the other prohibited possessor tests such as being a drug user, on probation, or dishonorably discharged from the military. "It makes no sense to me that I'm able to serve in Congress or even become President of the United States, but barred for the rest of my life from owning a firearm," Michaels said.

CALIFORNIA SHERIFFS OPPOSE GAVIN NEWSOM'S GUN CONTROL INITIATIVE

California sheriffs are opposing Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom's gun-control measure aimed for the fall ballot, arguing it would not prevent criminals from obtaining guns and ammunition via the black market or theft. Instead, the proposal would place additional restrictions on law-abiding people who want to buy ammunition for recreational use, retain guns and magazines that are currently legal or pass down historical or family heirlooms, the California State Sheriffs' Association wrote in a letter to Newsom's campaign. "Effectively, this measure will create a new class of criminals out of those that already comply with common sense practices that now exist," wrote President Martin Ryan, Amador County sheriff and PAC Chair Gregory J. Ahern, Alameda County sheriff .

COLORADO DEMOCRATS IN COMMITTEE KILL FIVE GUN RIGHTS BILLS

On a party line vote, Democrats in the Colorado House's State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee killed five Republican sponsored bills involving gun rights. They include Senate Bill 017 allowing concealed carry of handguns without a permit. Representative Patrick Neville the sponsor of the bill says, if passed, Colorado would have been the eighth state to allow residents to carry concealed guns without a permit, alongside Arizona and Alaska. Those opposed to the bill say gun training should always be required for safety reasons, especially when the weapon is concealed. Other gun rights bills killed include repeal of the 2013 ban on magazines holding over fifteen rounds; allowing active duty military personnel to carry a concealed handgun; extending the right to use deadly force to business owners and employees; and allowing concealed carry on public school grounds.

IN THE STATES

GEORGIA LAWMAKERS PASS CAMPUS CARRY BILL LEGALIZING GUNS AT COLLEGES

The Georgia Senate gave final passage to a bill that for the first time would legalize firearms on all public colleges in Georgia, following an emotional two-hour floor debate over the wisdom of letting students carry concealed guns on campus. House Bill 859 now goes to the desk of Gov. Nathan Deal, who with a sweep of his pen can sign the measure into law. The legislation would allow anyone 21 or older with a weapons license to carry a gun anywhere on a public college or university campus, except for inside dormitories, fraternities and sorority houses, and at athletic events.

IDAHO GOVERNOR OTTER SIGNS PERMITLESS CARRY LEGISLATION

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter (R) signed Senate Bill 1389, permitless carry legislation. On July 1, 2016, Idaho will become the eighth state to recognize a law-abiding adult's ability to possess a concealed handgun for self-defense without government-mandated permitting and fees. It ensures that existing and long-standing concealed weapon license exemptions applicable "outside the limits or confines of any city" only protect the rights of law-abiding individuals, and provides a mechanism for law-abiding individuals eighteen or older to obtain a Concealed Weapon License.

MARIANAS LEGISLATURE FAILS TO ACT ON FEDERAL COURT RULING

When federal judge for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) Ramona V. Manglona declared their ban on handguns to be unconstitutional under the Second Amendment, she ruled that the CNMI's arguments for a handgun ban were meritless, but left the door open to legislation regulating handguns. Lawmakers panicked at losing their gun-free society where suddenly anyone could buy a handgun and were so flustered they failed to act in a timely manner on a workable regulation plan by the Office of Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Chief Solicitor James Zarones. The CNMI House of Representatives failed to act on the AG's regulatory bill, but the Senate passed it. Speaker Ralph Demapan then called for an emergency session of the House to discuss the bill drafted by the AG, H.B. 19-148, but could not get a majority vote. Legislators are now studying the bill with greater deliberation while sweating public reactions. Gov. Ralph Torres said the federal court ruling will change the lives of the CNMI people. "Our lives will never be the same again. We need to have more vehicles, we need to purchase bulletproof vests for our officers, as well as elected officials and judges," said Torres. The CNMI is slowly calming down and getting its act together. *Read more on Page 5.*

BILL TO BAN GUNS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES APPROVED IN MARYLAND HOUSE

Maryland's Democratic-controlled House edged closer to a potential standoff with Republican Gov. Larry Hogan by approving legislation that would ban guns at the state's public colleges and universities. The bill is one of three gun-control measures being pushed by Democratic leaders, including Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. and House Speaker Michael E. Busch. The other bills would bar the state from issuing gun permits to individuals on the FBI's terrorist watch list and require courts to inform domestic abusers and felons, within 48 hours of a conviction, that they must turn over their firearms and verify within three days that they have complied. Opponents have raised concerns that the watch-list bill violates due-process rights. They say individuals can be placed on the roster without first having a chance to challenge the designation. Maryland has some of the nation's strictest gun laws, enacted under Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) in 2013.

IN THE STATES

Gov. Hogan has not announced a position on the legislation. But his spokesman, Doug Mayer, said the governor has "no intention of altering existing gun laws. Overall, the governor believes we should make it harder for criminals and the mentally ill to obtain guns and make it easier for law-abiding citizens," Mayer said.

NEW YORK STATE SENATE COMMITTEE VOTES DOWN GUN CONTROL BILL

A New York State Senate committee rejected a bill that would make it a crime to fail to safely store a firearm. In a party line vote, the Senate codes committee voted down the proposed Children's Weapon Accident Prevention Act, which would make it a felony if a gun owner fails to safely store a loaded weapon and the gun is used by a child under 18 to kill or injure a child. The bill also would have made it a less serious violation for a gun owner to fail to lock up a weapon or disable it with a trigger lock when the firearm is not in their immediate possession or control. The state Assembly has passed similar bills in recent years, but the legislation has never made it through Senate committees for a vote on the floor of the Senate. Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-Fayette, the chair of the Senate codes committee, voted against the bill, explaining, "It creates several problems for those trying to protect their families."

PERMITLESS OPEN CARRY PASSES OKLAHOMA HOUSE 73-15

The Oklahoma House passed legislation to legalize carrying a handgun openly on one's hip without a concealed carry permit. According to The Washington Times, the measure is being referred to as "constitutional open carry" and the vote for passage was 73-15, a landslide victory for abolishing the permit requirement. The bill is sponsored by Representative Jeff Coody (R-Grandfield), who described the measure as "the ultimate freedom bill regarding open carry." He said: It is similar to open carry laws in more than 30 other states and would allow gun owners to exercise their Second Amendment right to carry firearms openly, such is [sic] in a holster, without having to comply with existing state government licensing requirements. The measure was supported by Representative John Bennett (R-Sallisaw), who stressed that people should not have to get a permission slip from the government to carry a holstered sidearm for self-defense.

GUN CONTROL GROUP LIVID ABOUT WEST VIRGINIA PERMITLESS CARRY OVERRIDE VETO

Within 48 hours of Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's torpedoing a bill to allow concealed carry without a permit in the state, lawmakers passed it into law regardless. In the first two days after Tomblin's repeat veto of a constitutional carry bill, the legislature voted to approve it without his signature. Tomblin rejected the measure, surrounded by police officers, citing concerns over the safety of law enforcement. This led to the House of Delegates voting 64-33 the next morning to pass the proposal over his veto and the state Senate voting 23-11 to do the same the next day. With legislative action complete on the bill, it will become the law of the land effective in 90 days. Backing up Tomblin were national gun control groups who fought the change at every turn for the past two years, successfully encouraging his veto both in 2015 and this year. "As a mom and a West Virginian, I am livid that the legislature caved to the demands of the gun lobby on HB 4145," said Dee Price with the West Virginia chapter of Moms Demand Action in a statement emailed to Guns.com.

Parting Shot

GUN CONTROL STUDY NOT EVEN GOOD PROPAGANDA

The *Washington Post* headline said it all: "Why this gun control study might be too good to be true" and showed us it wasn't true.

The unbelievable study by Boston University researchers, published in the prestigious British medical journal *The Lancet*, claimed that if just three gun control laws were adopted nationwide in the United States, deaths from firearms could be cut by more than 90 percent.

The three magic laws: background checks for guns, background checks for ammunition buyers and ballistic fingerprinting that allows bullets to be matched to the guns that fired them. Think of it: a reduction of 90 percent! Wow!

It's a reduction so staggering that it sounds hard to believe. And according to two outside scientists, we shouldn't.

David Hemenway, a professor of health policy at the Harvard School of Public Health, said, "That's too big -- I don't believe that. These laws are not that strong. If you had these three laws and enforced them really well and reduced gun deaths by 10 percent, you'd be ecstatic."

Daniel Webster, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy & Research, said of the study, "This is not a credible study and no cause and effect inferences should be made from it."

Aha! "Cause and effect" (Science causes Politics) is the secret message of the study: The lead author, epidemiologist Bindu Kalesan of Boston University, said that "the study provides policymakers the hard evidence they need to prioritize individual gun control laws that would have the biggest impact."

That's not science, that's politics. It's made-to-order propoganda advice to politicians pushing gun control laws. And that's so obvious that it shows the trouble with all anti-gun studies.

Harvard's Hemenway told U.S. News & World Report, "I could find serious problems with virtually any U.S. study about gun laws."

This bout of public infighting and candid admissions about the lack of credibility of the entire field of gun violence research should give the public and policymakers pause when presented with studies supporting further gun restrictions.

We need to remember that gun control studies are not science-based.

They are *scientist* based, the opinions, biases and prejudices of a highly educated person who still has political beliefs as well as a degree in science.

Gun owners need not be too impressed by even the most prestigious science journals such as *The Lancet*, because they make serious mistakes like this one.

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Tartaro

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