

State AGs Tell Biden: ‘We Will Oppose Your Gun Ban Efforts’

Sixteen state attorneys general have signed a blistering letter to President Joe Biden, telling him in no uncertain terms they are ready to oppose any attempt by your Administration to trample on this fundamental constitutional right.”

The letter was initiated by Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen. It comes a week after Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, advising him Montana will not enforce the recent pistol brace rule announced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Gianforte reminded Garland about a law passed in Montana two years ago that prohibits enforcement of some federal gun control laws, as noted by the [Tenth Amendment Center](#).

Knudsen is joined by colleagues in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

“According to your own CDC, Americans use guns to protect themselves and their families up to 3 million times per year, if not more—far more often than guns are used in crimes, and far, far more often than guns injure people,” Knudsen wrote. “The right to keep and bear arms in self-defense guards and protects the right to life, the first and most fundamental God-given right recognized in the Declaration of Independence. And, needless to say, your repeated attempts to deprive law-abiding Americans of guns that are in common and widespread use for self-defense are patently unconstitutional. We stand ready to oppose any attempt by your Administration to trample on this fundamental constitutional right.”

Knudsen, a Republican, is quickly earning a reputation for his defense of the Second Amendment. In his letter, he tells the president, “Anti-gun politicians like yourself use the misleading label of ‘assault weapon’ to scare Americans—expecting us to endorse your efforts to criminalize law-abiding gun owners. We also know that your personal definition of ‘assault weapons’ is staggeringly broad—encompassing all semiautomatic weapons—which are the most common and effective self-defense weapons in use today, employed by over 100 million Americans to defend their homes and families.

“Last November,” he reminded Biden, “in a moment of unscripted candor, you stated to reporters that ‘[t]he idea we still allow semiautomatic weapons to be purchased is sick. It’s just sick. It has no, no social redeeming value. Zero. None. Not a single, solitary rationale for it except profit for the gun manufacturers.’”

The five-page letter also calls Biden out for his claims that the ten-year ban on so-called “assault weapons,” which he championed while serving in the Senate, made a significant difference in violent crime.

“Your claim that the 1994 federal ‘assault weapon’ ban, which you supported in Congress, reduced mass shootings is also unsupportable,” the letter states. “Two different studies commissioned by the U.S. Department of Justice—during the Clinton and Bush Administrations—found no discernible effect on violent crime from that legislation.”

A few lines later, Knudsen tells Biden, “And, needless to say, your repeated attempts to deprive law-abiding Americans of guns that are in common and widespread use for self-defense are patently unconstitutional. Just last term, [d]rawing from this historical tradition, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Second Amendment protects ‘the carrying of weapons that are ... ‘in common use at the time.’ Semiautomatic pistols and rifles ‘are indisputably in ‘common use’ for self-defense today.’ Indeed, semiautomatic handguns are ‘the quintessential self-defense weapon.’ There is ‘no justification for laws restricting the public carry of weapons that are unquestionably in common use today.’”

Knudsen and his fellow attorneys general aren’t the only ones giving Biden a hard time in recent days over his career-long crusade against Second Amendment rights.

In a [statement to the media](#) following Biden’s State of the Union address a week ago, Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, blasted the president for pushing an “assault weapons” ban despite a new ABC News/Washington Post poll showing 51 percent of Americans oppose such a ban, which is a 10-point rise in opposition since 2019.

“This is such a dramatic shift in public opinion that not even Joe Biden and his speechwriters could claim not to have noticed,” Gottlieb observed at the time. “The White House pays attention to polling, so we can only conclude the president was hoping nobody would notice. Well, we did, and we’re calling him out. He can’t just sweep this new survey under the rug.

“Biden needs a bogey man cause,” Gottlieb added, “and guns have always been his favorite target. It’s easy to demonize firearms when you’ve got an establishment media to parrot, rather than challenge, anything you say because much, if not most, of the press is ignorant about guns and the millions of citizens who own them.”

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...dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to:

- 1. Counter the designs of malicious legislators.
2. Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.
3. Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.
4. Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.
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May 23, 2023

July, 25, 2023

Sept. 26, 2023

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7:00 PM

Bass Pro

Independence, MO

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MVACA

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REGISTRATION (Continued from page 1)

Knudsen, a Montana native and outdoorsman who is a devoted shooter, concluded the letter stating, "In sum, the right to keep and bear arms is one of the most fundamental and deeply rooted liberties in our constitutional tradition. It guards and protects the most basic of all rights, the right to life, and it stands as a constant bulwark against tyranny. We stand ready to oppose any attempt by your Administration to trample on this fundamental constitutional right."

ATF 'zero tolerance' policy impacts local gun stores

A new federal "zero tolerance" policy is impacting some local gun stores. Store owners are having their licenses revoked for certain offenses, and there are no warnings or second chances.

Johnson City gun store owner J.C. Harrison received a letter from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms notifying him his license to sell guns is revoked effective April 4. His appeal was denied. "It's an attack on the Second Amendment through the back door," Harrison said.

It's under a new "zero tolerance" policy President Biden issued starting in 2021 for certain offenses including transferring a firearm to a prohibited person, failing to run a background check, falsifying records, failing to respond to a tracing request, and refusing a federal inspection.

Harrison claims his violations were simply "clerical errors," including forgetting to log when weapons were returned after gunsmithing 33 times.

"You're supposed to do a background check if it exceeds 30 days," Harrison explained in another instance. "It came back good, but it came back 30 days and then the 31st day the customer came to pick the gun up."

He believes the policy is too harsh and punishes honest mistakes.

"What does this do to you financially? How important is this?" News 5's Caleb Perhne asked. "This is huge," Harrison said. "My wife and I, this was our sole income, and it's not anymore."

ATF statistics show the percentage of inspections resulting in a revoked license has quadrupled since this time last year, and the agency is issuing more revocations than warnings, a flip-flop from before the policy took effect.

Meanwhile, other local gun store owners said they have had no issues.

"The ATF is fair with the officers we've dealt with through the years," said Howard Craft at H&S Hunting in Elizabethton. "They're just making sure the forms are filled out. They want to put guns in the law-abiding citizen's hands."

Craft said he checks and rechecks his paperwork.

"I was in here early this morning for a couple hours before we opened, just going through double-checking all my paperwork to make sure I did do everything properly. You go back over again to make sure you did do everything properly. It's that important," he said.

Gun purchase tracking suspended

Following blowback and threats of litigation from Second Amendment advocates and nearly two dozen states writing up legislation to counter, Visa and Mastercard have paused their plan to adopt the International Organization for Standardization's new merchant category code. The new code effectively creates a gun registry of sorts, as all firearm and ammunition purchases are filed under a code that identifies them as such. "There are bills advancing in several states related to the use of this new code," Visa explained. "If passed, the result will be an inconsistency in how this ISO standard could be applied by merchants, issuers, acquirers and networks," so "we have decided to pause work on the implementation of the firearms specific MCC." In celebrating this win for Americans' Second Amendment rights, Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN) contended, "This politicization of our financial sector must stop."



WE HAVE A WINNER

The winner of the Henry Big Boy .357 Magnum was drawn at the RK Show in February after all tickets had been sold.

Aaron K. (left) holding his prize is shown with Bill Shelley, our Gun Show Coordinator.

The winning ticket was drawn by one of the ladies who work for RK Shows.

Congratulations Aaron!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

K. L. Jamison

President Biden has issued an executive order that all federal agencies must complicate our lives. He orders that states be bullied and bribed into passing “red flag laws” under which some random person can accuse you of being dangerous. Your guns are seized without a hearing, and you have to prove that you are not dangerous in order to get them back. There is no reliable test to find a person dangerous or not dangerous. This will suck money out of the victim’s pockets. He will never get this money back. Our legislature has opposed these laws but it would only take some mid-night hysteria to impose them on us.

The order will crack down on people who have a hobby of selling guns. Federal law already makes this an activity of questionable legality. The order will have federal agencies judged by how many hobbyists they put in prison. I know of people who build AR-15s and sell the result to buy parts for new projects. They are certain targets.

Many take comfort in shooting sports that are not immediate targets. Hunting, gun ranges and gun stores are popular targets for the usual suspects. Lawsuits directed against these activities suck money from our sport. Money we cannot get back. The purpose of these lawsuits is not to win but to bankrupt gun dealers. Remington was bankrupted by the legal fees defending a lawsuit which claimed that their advertising inspired a young psychopath to kill his mother, steal her Remington and shoot up a school. It should have been laughed out of court. It was not. Remington was the oldest gun maker in America. It went bankrupt. Small gun shops have been run out of business by these lawsuits.

The executive order encourages these lawsuits and the fiction that background checks are not conducted. The sanctions against gun shops will be publicized. These inspections typically find clerical errors. Publication will make them targets for lawsuits.

Losing gun shops hurts us all. We must stick together. That is my executive order.
I thank-you for the honor of being your president.

A CHEAP LEGAL MEMO

AIR SHOOTING

K. L. Jamison

I did not watch the Superbowl. I knew the Chiefs had won. I heard the gunfire. This bothered me. It is illegal to fire guns in the city limits.

The NRA safety rules are specific: Be sure of your target and what is beyond.” Violation of safe shooting rules has been found to be the basis for a manslaughter conviction. See *State v Whiteley*, 294 S.W.3d 114 (Mo.App. S.D. 2009).

What goes up must come down. People have been injured and killed from celebratory gunfire. This creates consequences. A few years ago a child was killed by celebratory gunfire. There is a bill in the legislature to make firing a gun in the city limits a felony. This complicates our lives. It makes people think there should be more restrictions on owning guns.

The day following the Superbowl a man called in to a radio station to complain about the gunfire. He had made a recording. Much of what this guy recorded was probably fireworks; but not all. Now a radio audience believes that there should be “reasonable restrictions.”

My father was on Okinawa when WW II ended. As he recalled, “Every nut on the island started shooting in the air.” Mrs Jamison’s boy hit the deepest bunker he could find and stayed there until the euphoria died down. People were killed celebrating the end of WW II.

Kevin L. Jamison is an attorney in the Kansas City Missouri area concentrating in the area of weapons and self-defense.

Please send questions to Kevin L. Jamison 2614 NE 56th Ter Gladstone Missouri 64119-2311 KLJamisonLaw@earthlink.net. Individual answers are not usually possible but may be addressed in future columns.

This information is for legal information purposes and does not constitute legal advice. For specific questions you should consult a qualified attorney.

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GOA PROVIDES DOCUMENTS RESULTING IN BILL TO REPEAL ATF GUN REGISTRY

"[An] internal ATF memo leaked by Gun Owners of America revealed that ATF had processed and digitized over 50,000,000 'out of business' records of gun dealers in FY 2021 ... [and now] the "ATF has reached a point where it has converted nearly one billion records (required to be kept by FFLs) into a single, centralized, and searchable national gun registry, that is routinely searched."

Republican Texas Rep. Michael Cloud reintroduced the No Retaining Every Gun In a System That Restricts Your (No REGISTRY) Rights Act on Wednesday, which would require the ATF to destroy all the purchase records they have in their databases.

The bill would also require closing gun stores to destroy their purchase records, preventing the records from going to the ATF....

Aidan Johnston, GOA director of federal affairs, told Fox News Digital "ATF has no business maintaining nearly a billion gun and gun owner records in a digital, searchable database."

"ATF's recordkeeping authority has been weaponized and all statutory protections against the creation of a gun registry have been maliciously circumvented," Johnston said.

"Gun Owners of America proudly supports Rep. Michael Cloud's No REGISTRY Rights Act to rein in this rogue agency and completely eliminate ATF's unconstitutional gun registry," he continued.

The reintroduced bill has 62 of Cloud's colleagues cosponsoring the measure....

Last month, Fox News Digital exclusively obtained the ATF's federal firearms licensee (FFL) inspection guidance from January 2022 that makes it easier to revoke gun stores' federal licenses.... GOA first obtained the documents and shared them with Fox News Digital.

Last year, the gun rights advocacy group Gun Owners of America (GOA) accused the ATF of maintaining an "illegal gun registry" in their report on the agency's then-new rule requiring federal firearms licensees (FFLs) — gun stores — to keep their purchase records indefinitely.

The group's report on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requested documents revealed the ATF "is maintaining a digital, searchable, centralized registry of guns and gun owners in violation of various federal prohibitions."

"In November of 2021, an internal ATF memo leaked by Gun Owners of America revealed that ATF had processed and digitized over 50,000,000 'out of business' records of gun dealers in FY 2021," the report reads. "This report was picked up by major pundits and news outlets, including Fox News' Tucker Carlson and the Blaze."

GOA wrote in their report that the "ATF has reached a point where it has converted nearly one billion records (required to be kept by FFLs) into a single, centralized, and searchable national gun registry, that is routinely searched by multiple data fields (except, reportedly, by gun owner name)."

"While ATF and others maintain this does not constitute a gun registry, and that all relevant statutes and restrictions are being adhered to, the information referenced in this section, revealed in a FOIA response by ATF to Gun Owners of America, proves otherwise," the report continues, pointing out that the "ATF maintains only that registry records in their final file format are not searchable by name."

"What ATF does not mention, however, is that throughout its processes to digitize and consolidate records, the records are received from dealers and maintained by ATF in fully searchable formats (including by name). Moreover, ATF's centralized database, even in its final form, is fully searchable by text for any of a variety of other factors (just not by name, supposedly)."

"What is more, it appears the only reason ATF's registry is not searchable by name is because ATF has merely disabled the ability for its software to search that particular record field. Of course, something that is so easily disabled could be easily re-enabled," the report added.

"In other words, this terrifying and legally prohibited power resides at ATF's fingertips, and American gun owners are merely relying on the agency's promise that it is not and will not abuse that power."

Federal law before the rule required federally-licensed gun stores to hold onto purchase records for a minimum of 20 years. The new rule prevents FFLs from destroying the purchase records should they so choose.

The ATF declined to comment on the legislation.

"War, like most other things, is a science to be acquired and perfected by diligence, by perseverance, by time, and by practice." —Alexander Hamilton

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"No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear." —Edmund Burke



LIBERTY NOTES

By Kevin L. Jamison

It is a Good Day for Liberty.

I have been a .45 ACP guy for many years. Age and arthritis conspire against me. I have not transitioned to the 9mm yet. If the old bones continue to complain I may have to transition down the ballistics table. I may end with a North American Arms mini revolver, perhaps in .22 short. The .22 short is the first metallic cartridge so it is well-vetted. However, accuracy will be critical. I will have to add night sights, laser sights, holographic sights, a flashlight and a bayonet. If I rely on the .22 short I may need that bayonet.

A federal district judge in Kansas City has found our Second Amendment Preservation Act (SAPA) is unconstitutional. He claims that it interferes with federal law enforcement. States cannot interfere with federal law enforcement. The SAPA law does nothing of the kind. It prohibits state and local law enforcement from assisting federal authorities in confiscating guns unless there is an equivalent state law involved. There are few federal gun laws without a state equivalent. There has been a great deal of hysteria about SAPA. The Missouri Attorney General has appealed the matter to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. We have a better chance at victory in the 8th Circuit. The district judge's court order has been stayed pending appeal. A "stay" means that it is ineffective until the appellate rules. Writing to the judges will do no good. It will cause them to circle the wagons to support the district judge. Contact the Missouri Attorney General to support his actions appealing the district judge's decision. The Missouri AG is on our side. Thank him for that.

This is another reason to appear at Rally Day on 19 April, 2023 between 10 AM and noon. The more faces that appear, the more emphatic it is that we will defend our rights.

I've just read "American Rifle" which the author calls "A Biography." It traces the development and use of military rifles in America. In the Revolutionary War rifles came as a tactical and technological surprise to the British. The book goes into great detail on how muskets and rifles were used differently for military purposes. Better than half the reason for a musket was to have a place to put a bayonet. Rifles did not have provision for a bayonet, for reasons I do not fully understand. Muskets fired far faster than rifles, but at far less range and accuracy. The book details how this created conflicting doctrines for rifles. One school demanded accuracy. The other school demanded firepower. Even when they could have both the two schools could not agree. When Hall developed his revolutionary breach-loading flintlock rifle in 1811 it was harassed, delayed and prevented from general issue by the Ordinance Bureau. It was a victim of "Not Invented Here." During the Civil War Mr. Spencer walked into the President's office with his repeating rifle and was not gunned down on the spot. President Lincoln and Mr. Spencer adjourned to a nearby field for an informal test. The President ordered them issued to the Union Army. The army defied the order even as soldiers bought them out of their own pay. One complaint about repeaters was that soldiers would waste ammunition. The logistics of the time could not keep up. Another was that the early repeaters could not handle the high power loads the Army insisted were necessary. Improved ammunition did not result in more versatile rifles. The Springfield breach-loader arrived just in time to be obsolete. It was designed for accurate fire at long distances. This range was seldom required. Even after WW I when it was demonstrated that rifle engagements were seldom over 300 meters the cult of long range accuracy continued. Sometime one wonders whose side the bureaucrats were on. The book is a great resource for people interested in rifle history.

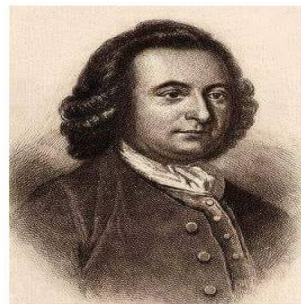
In an astonishing development, my letter supporting gun rights was published in the Star. It had claimed, in a front page editorial masquerading as news, that there are no background checks when guns are purchased. The Star has a history of this. It claimed that the Eddie Eagle gun safety program was ineffective. It claimed that SAPA nullifies federal gun law. They publish press releases from the usual suspects and do not check them for accuracy. We have to write letters to the editor. I know that many have given up on the Star. It is possible to read it in libraries and on the internet at KansasCity.com. We have to argue back, or they have won.

When you come to Rally Day, carry a sign to the effect that you represent 10 voters who could not get off work to appear. The more faces in the crowd the better.

A federal judge took the files of President Trump's lawyer for review. This occasionally happens when the judge is concerned that the lawyer participated in a crime. Before the judge shares these files with anyone the practice is to notify the party so the order can be appealed. The judge in this case did not do so and transferred the files to the prosecution. This is an outrageous violation of the attorney-client privilege. This worries me. A person must be able to discuss his problems with his lawyer without concern that his notes might be given to the opposition.

I Second That.

"Fact: Rifles of any type, and shotguns, are used in less than 3% of all homicides, but Biden never lets facts get in the way of his political agenda."



"I ask, Sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people. To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

George Mason
Father of the Bill of Rights
& co-author Second
Amendment



Biden's Shotgun Approach to Executive Orders

His latest order on guns will do nothing to stop crime, all while trampling on the Constitution.

Inflation is still 6% (10.2% for groceries), employers are still understaffed, banks are still too big to fail, migrants are still flooding across the border, and fentanyl is still killing roughly 200 people *per day*. But Joe Biden's got a fever, and the only prescription is more gun control.

He issued an executive order Tuesday that he says ostensibly "helps keep firearms out of dangerous hands" by directing Attorney General Merrick Garland "to take every lawful action possible— *burp* — possible to move us as close as we can to universal background checks without new legislation." He also says his order "expands public awareness campaigns" about so-called red flag laws.

Don't get us wrong — we're not advocating for violent criminals to legally buy firearms. But most of them already don't do so legally, and making it *more* illegal isn't going to change that. Assault and murder, by the way, remain illegal in all 50 states. The particular gun used in the Monterey Park murders was also already banned in California. Perhaps all those George Soros-funded Democrat DAs in Democrat-run cities should try enforcing the law by prosecuting criminals.

As for red flag laws, no one wants to arm a dangerous man intent upon harm, but pre-crime measures tend to involve violating a person's Fourth Amendment due process rights on the way to restricting his Second Amendment rights.

To add to the theater of it all, Biden traveled to Monterey Park, California, near the location of a recent mass murder. Democrats always seem to use the caskets of innocents as a platform for their anti-Second Amendment agenda. Biden, who has known great personal loss, gave remarks tugging at people's heartstrings in a way few can. From devastating personal experience, he does know how to talk about grief.

Yet that grief doesn't make his policy the right course, either from the standpoint of effectiveness or of American Liberty.

It also doesn't mean he's done. It could be argued that he's chipping around the edges with this order, but he made clear he wants more. A lot more.

"None of this absolves Congress," he said, "from the responsibility of acting to pass universal background checks [and] eliminate gun manufacturers' immunity from liability. And I am determined once again to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines." He added: "Do something. Do something big."

It's odd to speak of manufacturer liability just days after bailing out a couple of big banks. In fact, one could be forgiven for thinking this gun order is a distraction from that news. It also happens to be false to claim, as he did once again, that the gun industry is "the only outfit you can't sue these days."

On a related note, what of Biden's liability, along with Barack Obama's, for running illegal guns to Mexican drug cartels during the Obama administration's Operation Fast and Furious?

It's also bizarre to continue railing against semiautomatic rifles with certain cosmetic features, but Biden is obsessed with doing so. "Assault weapons" is a gross misnomer for these firearms, which function the same as the vast majority of other guns, firing a single bullet with each trigger pull. The FBI's annual report on murders doesn't separate AR-15s from other rifles (which ought to tell you a lot, by the way), and the total murder count for all rifles in 2020 was 455. Remember that deaths due to fentanyl average roughly 200 *per day* and that fentanyl is largely smuggled across Joe Biden's open border. Remember that most crimes with firearms are committed by thugs in Democrat-run urban centers — thugs who have a 50% chance of getting away with it. Remember that most gun deaths are suicides.

Again, don't get us wrong — we're not minimizing a single one of those deaths, but we do need perspective when the president of the United States demands that we outlaw legal firearms in common use protected by the Second Amendment. We need that perspective when the same guy who claims "democracy was threatened" within an inch of its life on January 6 also repeatedly threatens the American people that they're going to need a whole lot more than AR-15s to take on the federal government.

We don't know about you, but his histrionic threats don't make us trust him and the federal government to have guns while we go without.

Rep. Barry Moore Pushes to Make AR-15 'National Gun of America'

Moore stopped by Troy, Alabama's, Family Firearms to make his announcement and tweeted, "The Second Amendment is as American a right as freedom of speech, religion, & the press." He added, "Today I unveiled my bill to make the AR-15 the National Gun of America. We must send a message that we will meet every attack on any of our constitutional rights." WHNT reported that upon leaving Family Firearms, Moore said, "The anti-Second Amendment group won't stop until they take away all your firearms... One rule to remember: any government that would take away one right would take away them all."

On January 18, 2023, Breitbart News noted Geraldo Rivera's claim that the "AR" in AR-15 stands for "automatic rifle." It does not. Rather, the "AR" stands for Armalite Rifle, as Armalite was the first company to produce the AR-15 after it was designed by Eugene Stoner.

An AR-15 is a semiautomatic rifle, which means it fires one round—and only one round—each time the trigger is pulled. It is chambered in .223/5.56 and is wildly popular for self-defense, match shooting, and hunting predators and small game. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) classifies AR-15s as "Modern Sporting Rifles" (MSRs) and estimates that there are nearly 25 million MSRs currently in circulation.

NSSF noted there are more AR/AK-style firearms "in circulation today than there are Ford F-Series trucks on the road."



Report: You Stand 1 Chance in 179 of Being Murdered; FBI ‘Buried’ Data

A careful study of murders last year by a non-profit research institute called Just Facts concluded earlier this month that a U.S. citizen faces 1-in-179 odds of being murdered in his/her lifetime, rather than dying of other causes.

Just Facts President and co-founder James D. Agresti revealed in a lengthy report that the FBI murder data for 2021 is woefully incomplete, and the true number—based on an examination of death certificate data—is about 10,000 more slayings than the estimated 14,677 reported by NewsNation and other outlets, which is “Based on a misunderstanding of new FBI data,” Agresti wrote.

The problem may be worse than a simple misunderstanding, however.

In the past, the FBI’s annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) was a model of user-friendliness, with links to various subjects, including “Homicide” and “Violent Crime” and “Weapons.” There was even a state-by-state breakdown of homicide estimates with data on types of weapons used. It was used up to the 2019 report.

But last year, that changed as the FBI introduced the “Crime Data Explorer” when it released the 2020 report which, as noted by Just Facts, “contains a maze of vaguely worded links, drop down menus, and acronyms.”

Here’s how complicated the new platform makes it for users, as detailed by Just Facts:

“To locate the FBI’s estimate of murders for 2021 with this system, readers must:

go to the Crime Data Explorer home page and scroll past three prominent links named “Crime Data Explorer,” “Law Enforcement Explorer,” and “Documents and Downloads” which lead to webpages with scores of menus and files that don’t contain the data.

scroll to a section of the webpage titled “Explore by Location and Dataset: State participation depicts current year.”

click on a dropdown menu under a header named “Dataset” and select the menu item that says “NIBRS Estimation Data,” which leads to another webpage.

scroll to a section of the webpage called “NIBRS Estimation Viewer” and read the report that contains the data via a file viewer that sometimes fails to display the report or click on a link that says “Download NIBRS Trend Analysis Report.”

Thus, the Just Facts report is headlined “As Murders Soar, FBI Buries the Data.”

As reported by The Blaze, “Nearly 40% of U.S. police departments did not provide the FBI with complete crime data for 2021 by the March deadline.” When Ammoland reported on this year’s FBI Crime Report back on Oct. 7, we noted the same problem, describing it as a “fiasco.”

To remedy the situation and get to the truth, Just Facts dug into data from different sources, including the CDC, to determine a far closer homicide estimate for 2021.

“Homicide counts from death certificates are published by the CDC via two online data extraction portals,” Just Facts noted. “Both of these report 24,576 homicides in 2020, but they don’t yet present data for 2021. However, another CDC portal provides provisional homicide rates through 2021, reporting 7.5 homicides per 100,000 people in 2020 and 7.8 in 2021. Combining these three figures yields 25,559 homicides in 2021.”

A few lines later, the Just Facts report states: “Removing justifiable homicides to obtain an estimate of actual murders, about 24,493 people were murdered in 2021. This is about 1,000 more murders than in 2020, a 5% increase on top of a 28% increase the year before that.”

Another significant part of the equation was noted by Fox News: “Experts who have previously spoken to Fox News Digital pointed to calls to defund the police, the riots of 2020, the Ferguson effect — when police pull back amid a spike in violent crime and unrest — and the COVID pandemic for contributing to the bloodshed of 2020.”

Considering the magnitude of this statement, it becomes understandable why so many more citizens have been buying guns and applying for carry permits and licenses over the past two years. As Ammoland has frequently reported about Washington state, the number of active concealed pistol licenses is skyrocketing toward 700,000 by the end of this year. In a state with a population of about 7.3 million, this might translate to roughly one-in-eight qualified adults being licensed to carry.

Put this phenomenon on a national scale and the estimate could be well above 20 million, and that would not include the number of people carrying without a license/permit in the 25 states that no longer require such a document in order to be armed in public for personal protection.

Still, there is a significant and unanswered question: Why did the FBI make it harder to access crime data, including homicides?

In 2021, this correspondent tried repeatedly to contact the FBI media office for assistance in navigating the new “Crime Data Explorer” website. Calls and emails were not returned.

According to Fox News, “The FBI switched to a new recording program at the start of 2021 called the National Incident-Based Reporting System that aims to provide a more thorough snapshot of offenses, such as what weapons were used in an incident, types of property stolen and more detailed demographic information on victims and perpetrators of crimes.”

But it appears nearly 40 percent of law enforcement agencies simply did not, or could not, provide data to the new reporting system.

Ammoland found another problem with the data regarding weapons used in crimes. The listing is horribly confusing, as underscored by this sample from the Montana page. There are categories titled “Handgun,” “Firearm,” “Rifle,” “Other Firearm,” “Shotgun,” “Handgun (Automatic),” “Firearm (Automatic),” “Rifle (Automatic),” and “Shotgun (Automatic).”

BURIED DATA (Continued on page 9)

BURIED DATA (Continued from page 8)

It appears without question the Just Facts project has opened a proverbial can of worms, but the effort can certainly be used by gun rights and personal protection advocates to justify the continuing strong interest in gun ownership, the demand for competent instruction and training, and resistance to new gun control laws that make it harder for people to exercise their right to keep and (especially) bear arms.

The Woke Politics of a Mass Shooting

Political correctness reigns supreme in the aftermath of another senseless slaughter.

There's a racial angle to Monday night's senseless and horrific slaughter of three Michigan State University students and the grave wounding of five others in East Lansing, but it's not the racial angle you might think.

The murderer, an obviously deranged and fallen 43-year-old man, happened to be black. But that detail seems purely incidental. So far as we know, this crime wasn't driven by racial animus. Indeed, one of the three deceased students was a beautiful young black woman.

What wasn't incidental, though, was the deliberate decision on Monday night made by multiple local news networks to refuse to disclose the crucial identifying detail of the assailant's race while he was still at large and still a threat. We know this because we watched these events unfold on local television. We have friends and neighbors whose kids are students at MSU.

This was unconscionable, this political correctness, and it could've cost additional lives.

As Townhall's Julio Rosas notes, national news anchors were guilty of the same reckless wokeness: "CNN anchor Alisyn Camerota was on the air when news was breaking about the shooting at Michigan State University Monday evening, she provided details about the suspect after police released information about him but she left out the man police were actively looking for was black."

Is it too much to ask that when a killer is on the loose, our mainstream media provides us with as much potentially life-saving information as it can, hard-left racial sensitivities be damned?

"It was shortly after we released [the images] that he was recognized by an alert citizen," said MSU Police and Public Safety Deputy Chief Chris Rozman. "And that was exactly what we were trying to achieve by releasing that picture, was to generate immediate tips for this person that was mobile, that we had no idea where he was at that point."

Sadly, college campuses are notoriously soft targets for such crimes. That's because they tend to be gun-free zones. The murderer no doubt passed plenty of crowded stores and bars and restaurants on his way to MSU. It's a sad reality to contemplate, but if there had been just one Eli Dicken there at Markey Hall on Monday night, the devastation wrought by this bad guy with a gun could've been limited or denied altogether. Dicken, you may recall, was the hero of Greenwood Park Mall, the young man who saved countless lives last year when he engaged and stopped a shooter *just 15 seconds* after he emerged from a mall bathroom with a gun.

Said Greenwood Police Chief James Ison of Dicken: "His actions were nothing short of heroic. He engaged the gunman from quite a distance with a handgun. He was very proficient in that, tactically sound, and as he moved to close in on the suspect, he was also motioning for people to exit behind him. He has, to our knowledge — he has no police training and no military background."

Good guy with a gun.

As for this particular assailant, the Detroit News reports that he had "a history of mental health issues and was charged with multiple gun-related crimes in 2019."

The felony charge for carrying a firearm without a permit can carry a five-year prison sentence. But thanks to a soft-on-crime Ingham County district attorney, the assailant instead pleaded guilty to a lesser misdemeanor charge, and prosecutors dismissed the felony charge. He was thus sentenced to 12 months' probation in 2019 and an additional six months being added the following year.

Despite these failures to enforce the laws currently on the books — laws that in this case would've prevented the assailant from legally purchasing the firearm — the shamelessly opportunistic gun-grabbers are renewing their calls for tougher gun laws and a ban on "assault weapons" (whatever those are), even though the overwhelming majority of gun crimes are committed with handguns.

Wash, rinse, repeat.



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"Is there any other situation than voting where requiring a photo id is considered racist?" —Frank Fleming



Henry Big Boy Rifle Drawing

We will have a limited number of raffle tickets (1,000). We will not mail tickets to members to sell. Tickets will be available at all General meetings and at events where WMSA has a table. Additionally, to build our treasury for the coming year, this year's raffle is aimed towards gaining more WMSA members.

The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. As an added incentive, bring in a new member at a General Membership Meeting and get a free raffle ticket. Any current member who brings in a new WMSA member gets a free raffle ticket for each new member added to our rolls.

Bring your prospective new member to a general membership meeting and when the new member completes the membership application and pays their dues, you are handed a ticket, no charge! **The drawing will be held when all tickets are sold (Possibly at MOVA-CA Show in July)**



Henry Big Boy Rifle Cal. .44 Magnum

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REMINDER Next General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM
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