

Gun Safety Suggestions:

Compromise Based on Firearms Technology and Known
Patterns of Human Behavior Which Should be Acceptable to All
Sides of the Issue

by Dennis W. Wade
2018

(Numerical data has not been updated because incident numbers change daily.)

Please share with others and contact politicians.

Send input (reactions/suggestions) to dandrawade@comcast.net

Gun Safety Suggestions: Compromise Based on Facts

by Dennis W. Wade

(Content/Proposals List)

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Introduction and Background Related to AR-15 Style Rifles

Proposals:

1. NRA **Safety Course Training Certificate** shown at time of all pre-purchase/transfer back-ground checks and applications for concealed carry permits (See Proposal #3) Page 5
2. Requirements for all **new AR-15 style semi-automatic rifles**: Five (5) round detachable or 10 round fixed magazine; Fixed rear stock (not quick detachable, folding or telescoping stocks); 18-20 inch minimum barrel (See Graphic Addendum with Explanation)Page 5
 - 2.1 Small caliber, thin jacketed, fragile (fragmenting) varmint bullet sales limited to licensed hunters.
 - 2.2 More than one reliable personal **reference** required at time of back-ground check for **all** semi-automatic gun transfers.
3. **Back-ground checks for all gun transfers**, with exceptions for immediate family members and certain temporary transfers for sporting purposes. All new purchase/transfer records held on an NRA held "Cloud" account, available only to local police by judicial approval for crime investigation purposes.. P. 7
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Graphic

RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS RETAILER PARTNERSHIP: A 10-POINT VOLUNTARY CODE

The 10 points of the Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership are:

1. **Videotaping the Point of Sale for All Firearms Transactions.** Participating retailers will videotape the point-of-sale of all firearms transactions and maintain videos for 6 months to deter illegal purchases and monitor employees.
2. **Computerized Crime Gun Trace Log and Alert System.** A computerized system will be provided that participating retailers will implement over time to log crime gun traces relating to the retailer. Once the program is in place, if a customer who has a prior trace at that retailer attempts to purchase a firearm, the sale will be electronically flagged. The retailer would have discretion to proceed with the sale or stop the sale.
3. **Purchaser Declaration.** For sales flagged by the trace alert system, participating retailers will ask purchasers to fill out a declaration indicating that they meet the legal requirement to purchase the firearm.
4. **Deterring Fake IDs.** Participating retailers will only accept valid federal or state - issued picture IDs as primary identification. Retailers will utilize additional ID checking mechanisms.
5. **Consistent Visible Signage.** Participating retailers will post signage provided by *Heeding God's Call* to alert customers of their legal responsibilities at the point-of-sale.
6. **Employee Background Checks.** Participating retailers will conduct criminal background checks for all employees selling or handling firearms.
7. **Employee Responsibility Training.** Participating retailers will participate in an employee responsibility training program focused on deterring illegal purchases. *Heeding God's Call* will provide an online training system based on Wal-Mart's training program.
8. **Inventory Checking.** Participating retailers will conduct daily and quarterly audits. *Heeding God's Call* will provide guidelines based on Wal-Mart's existing audit procedures.
9. **No Sales Without Background Check Results.** Participating retailers would prohibit sales based on "default proceeds," which are permitted by law when background check has not returned a result within 3 days.
10. **Securing Firearms.** Participating retailers will maintain firearms kept in customer accessible areas in locked cases or locked racks.

*Participating retailers will phase in the provisions of
Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership over time.*

Prepared for and provided by Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence, Harrisburg, PA Chapter

Gun Safety Suggestions: Compromise Based on Facts

This is an attempt at actual common-sense suggestions that could work to prevent persons who are legally not permitted or mentally not prepared to own and use firearms from acquiring same without infringing on Second Amendment rights of responsible, law abiding citizens. Safety provisions and restrictions are included for lawful ownership of firearms, all with the intent of reducing loss of human life. It is understood that if negotiation fails or if there is no time for that approach when a potentially lethal threat to an innocent person(s) exists, "the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a responsible good guy with a gun". Defending self or others involves risks (physical, emotional/physiological, legal and liability) which should be understood. This proposal is intended to not limit or remove that option; however, the proposal is also intended to serve a "higher" purpose, which is to prevent or limit the "bad guys" from having access to guns, to the extent that is reasonably possible. [The proposal does not include unfounded or irrational "Feel Good" type regulations or any restrictions based solely on the physical appearance of guns. It was prepared based on years of observation, research and consideration.]

Before proposed suggestions are listed and described, some detailed background information is in order, including an introduction of myself. I have been involved in most forms of the shooting sports as a participant, instructor/coach and writer more than 65 years. With respect to classic, sporting long guns I could be considered a connoisseur. My very successful and highly respected friends and I are not interested in owning civilian AR-15 style rifles that look like modern military arms; that does not mean that we do not support the various legal civilian uses of them. I am a conservative, Republican, NRA member who is extremely upset with both of those groups because they seem to be intent on protecting our 2nd Amendment rights, which is often necessary, but not to the point that insufficient attention is given to the fact that large numbers of innocent victims are being killed. The purpose of the 2nd Amendment is to allow citizens the freedom necessary to protect the Constitution (life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness). With that in mind, one would surely think protection of self, loved ones and all others is implied. Unfortunately killings which deprive people of all their Constitutional rights can never be totally eliminated; history demonstrates that. Also disconcerting are the many letters to newspapers and TV interviews by persons who think that the problem can be solved with gun control alone, forgetting that morality cannot be legislated; if it could much fewer prisons would be needed. This work is intended to show both sides of the gun issue that there are both gun related and sociological changes that can be factors in saving lives.

In her letter to the Lancaster, PA newspaper (3/7/2018), Ginny Feenstra quoted her college psychology professor as having said, "Some people would rather be wanted for murder than to not be wanted at all." This would apply to killers, some suicidal, whether they be a guy who kills his estranged or ex-wife or girlfriend and her new lover or a mass killer; however, there are differences in the underlying motivation related to the latter of these two examples that were not common or did not exist a generation ago. When those arguing against gun control, including the NRA, state the fact that murder rates are down, we cannot ignore the related fact that **mass killings of innocents** are drastically up, and this must be remembered when deterrents are considered. The NRA and all other law abiding gun owners must become actively involved by showing more compassion and empathy (for not only the deceased, but also the grieving) by supporting some **reasonable deterrents** based on facts, which **might inconvenience, but not significantly restrict** 2nd Amendment rights.

A Millersville University psychology professor in the 1960s stunned his class by telling us that we do not have a right to our own opinions. After a pause he finished the thought by adding, "...unless they are informed opinions". Therefore, when two sides of an issue are as far apart as is currently the case with gun control, and the separation widening with each new incident involving criminal use of a firearm, it becomes increasingly more important that both sides and the news media work much harder at eliminating misinformation and dealing with facts. To **come together** and achieve any level of success a sufficient degree of understanding of firearms, human behavior, contributing social issues/circumstances, related past history and existing laws is essential. Before significant, actual common sense solutions that will preserve the rights, privileges and freedoms of all can be achieved, both sides must be willing to **sit down together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect** to analyze, identify (hopefully agree to) a body of both misconceptions and facts that now isolate the two sides. At the table there must be knowledgeable citizens (both those who do and do not own guns), politicians and the National Rifle Association (NRA). Before moving to a list of suggested changes leading to reduction of violence with guns, probably the single most contentious, disconcerting and divisive element, the **AR -15 style rifle**, is considered.

If all of those menacing looking, "ugly" black, modern AR-15 semi-autos (often misrepresented as assault rifles and referred to as "weapons of war" because they look like the military M-16) could/would be declared illegal and eliminated, what alternatives would remain for deranged persons intent on mass killing? Before that question is addressed, some additional questions and relevant facts are considered : According to a published CNBC report, only thirteen (13) of the reported 5-10 million AR-15's thought to be owned by civilians were used in mass murders (four or more fatalities) since 1985. Another report, prepared by Senior Legislative Attorney, Janet L. Kominski Ledoc, and available on a government web-site, covering 49 shootings with two or more deaths (from 1999-2013) indicates that six of those incidents involved semi-automatic rifles of any type and no semi-automatic shotguns. With four more shootings with AR-15s from 2013-2018, the two reports are statistically compatible. This poses the question, **what are all those other people doing** with all these rifles? Answer: Very few (much less than one percent) were obtained to "assault" innocent people. They are used legally for hunting in most states; they are used for both competition and informal target shooting; they were purchased for home defense; they are in the collections of some who are interested in firearms and simply enjoy owning a variety of same (for example, as Jay Leno owns a collection of automobiles, and Jay does not own them to DUI or intentionally drive into crowds of people). Relatively few murders are committed with long guns of any type; hand guns are used for most.

Yes, the AR-15 semi-automatic produced for civilian use has most of the exterior characteristics of the M-16 military rifle which is capable of full automatic fire, but those outward features make it no more lethal than any semi-auto traditional hunting rifle, as was finally clarified in a recent TV interview (02/2018) with Mark Fuhrman, of O.J. Simpson trial fame. Mr. Fuhrman briefly summarized a history of semi-auto rifles, emphasizing any difference in rate-of-fire (fire power) between earlier models and the AR-15 are negligible if magazine capacity is identical. Actually there is very little difference in rate-of-fire between semi-auto and manually operated, pump action rifles and shotguns. Anyone who doubts this has never seen videos of Herb Parsons or Tom Knapp stack seven clay targets on their palm, throw them into the air and quickly break all of them before any hit the ground with pump action shotguns. Mr. Knapp did this with semi-automatic guns until the company he represented marketed a very modern looking pump gun and then he did it with same. Granted, these gentlemen were highly skilled, paid professionals who toured, entertaining audiences, but they were not shooting at confined, stationary or relatively slowly moving large humans. They were consistently hitting small targets moving at the "speed of gravity". Younger persons with faster reaction time could easily hit humans with the same manually operated pump action guns at the same rate. More examples: The last time I shotsporing

clays eight persons (7 men and 1 woman) used semi-auto and double barreled shotguns (essentially two shot semi-automatics), and the ninth guy in the unusually large squad used an inexpensive, vintage, hunting pump action shotgun to easily out score all others, and he was breaking his second, simultaneously thrown, target faster than all the other participants. I had a similar experience previously when a teenager, shooting the most modern pump action shotgun (used by Mr. Knapp) and his father, shooting an inexpensive old pump gun, both shot their second shots faster than I could with my double barrel gun. People that propose banning a particular category of gun should visit a clay target facility and witness the above.

When police are issued shotguns they are not semi-automatics, for reliability they are provided pump guns. In both WWs (I and II), if/when Germans were about to over-take our GIs in foxholes, the Americans set aside their rifles and grabbed Winchester Model 97 Trench pump shotguns if they were available. When Vice President Biden strongly suggested a double barreled shotgun rather than a semi-auto rifle or pistol for defensive use at home, his thought certainly had merit. An even better choice would be a short barreled, open choked pump action shotgun, loaded with bird shot. When grizzly/brown bear hunting guides back-up their clients they use 12 gauge pump action shotguns loaded with slugs. A shotgun loaded with buckshot or large shot "goose" loads in the hands of anyone intent on mass killing would be devastating. The **Washington Naval Yard shooter** used a common old Remington 870 pump action shotgun (more than 9 million made) to kill twelve people.

The **Columbine** killers had a double barrel and pump action shotguns, plus a rifle and pistol (both semiautomatic). They had enough time to fire 37 shots with the shotguns that had great potential for catastrophic harm. They must have had to reload the shotguns at least three (3) times, in addition to all the shots fired with the rifle and pistol.

If Adam Lanza's mother had purchased a Remington 7615 pump action rifle rather than a semi-auto AR-15, and if Adam had substituted 30 round AR-15 magazines for the Remington factory magazine, he could have killed just as many students and teachers at the **Sandy Hook Elementary School** in the published police response time.

A very large percentage of the hunters and clay target shooters of Tom Brokaw's "Greatest Generation" used pump action guns. My father and the fathers of most of my friends had Model 12 Winchesters, and they might not have known that if the trigger was held as the gun was pumped it would continue to rapidly fire until the trigger was released or the magazine was emptied; something potential killers should not know. Many "Baby-boomers", following their fathers, started with pump guns, but went to semi-automatic and double barreled shotguns, not because they could be shoot faster, because that difference with pump actions is relatively insignificant. The advantage of the former is they can be swung more smoothly/accurately for follow-up shots or second targets because no manual effort is required to recycle the action. This factor can mean the difference between winning or losing a clay target competition, or hitting or missing swiftly escaping game, but is of no advantage to an active mass killer who is rapidly spraying shots, randomly trying to hit as many persons as possible. P. J. Reilly, the Lancaster Sunday News outdoor writer, surely considered smooth, accurate follow-up shots when he bought his Remington R-25 with a 4 shot magazine (which looks and functions like a camouflaged AR-15 with larger magazine) for wild hog and coyote hunting. When semi-automatic shotguns were found to be reliable by the 'Boomers' they became the norm for "Generation X and "Millennials", used extensively for small game, water-fouling, and skeet and sporting clays. I found no semi-automatic shotgun to have been used for any mass killing in the USA or Australia, yet they are banned in Australia (something that would be totally unacceptable to American sportsmen).

Finally, If there were no semi-automatics the next logical choice of killers would be pump action guns, surely causing those who propose gun bans to target them (as was done in Australia), which might cause even peace loving Amish and Mennonite deer and bear hunters (who appreciate their pump action big game rifles) to briefly think about joining millions of other law abiding, hunter, gun owners in starting a "2nd Revolution".

The people who propose gun bans seem to seriously underestimate the ingenious creativity that humans can bring into play when planning and executing both good and evil; many forget or ignore who had the "banned" booze during Prohibition; how poorly our current illegal drug laws are working; that the USA's worst domestic terrorist attack (Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing) was perpetrated without a gun shot fired (more than 160 adults and children killed along with many injured and an entire large building destroyed); the Boston marathon pressure cooker bombing; how Lancaster, PA native Steven Benson seriously injured his sister and killed his wealthy mother in Naples, Florida, with a pipe bomb which a Lancaster, PA newspaper, shortly thereafter, showed its readers how to make with easily locally acquired materials; the 95 bombs of five kinds made by the Columbine H. S. shooters and found after the event; or the mass killings when motor vehicles were driven into large crowds. Ineffective results appear to be forgotten or over-looked when we try to solve other problems (like domestic violence and DUI) with legislation only, while ignoring the need for social change.

If there were no mass shootings (4 -6 or more deaths) in Australia since the 1996 massacre which resulted in highly restrictive gun laws, there is something going on in USA society that is not common in Australia, because four or more people could easily be killed with the center-fire repeating guns and double barreled shotguns that are still available in Australia for hunting, and surely Australians are aware of bombs. When I attended a small town H. S. in the 1950s upper-classmen had guns in cars in the parking lot to hunt after school. There were guns in many homes and no gun safes to secure them; and there were no murders in the area. When an occasional single killing was reported in Harrisburg people were stunned. When I was a public school teacher from 1964 - 2000 a possible shooting never entered my mind, and the last year of my career was the year after Columbine. Members of my varsity rifle team, if they owned their own rifle carried them into the school in unlocked cases; administrators, teachers and students were not alarmed. A Lancaster County, PA school had a clay target shooting club, and the club members brought shotguns to school. **Our Society has changed!**

The Ruger Mini 14 Ranch, a semi-automatic rifle (chambered for the same cartridge used in AR-15s) with a 20 round detachable magazine was first sold in 1974. The Mini 14 is a reduced in size, with larger capacity magazine, take-off of the WWII semi-automatic M1 Garand rifle. It has sometimes been referred to as America's first "assault rifle" made for civilians and was often seen on gun racks in pick-up trucks. The Mini 14 was never used in a mass murder in the USA nor was a surplus M1. (The Mini 14 was used in a large mass killing on an island in Norway and in a mass killing in Canada.) The Mini 14 was not included in the 1994-2004 ban because it did not have the physical appearance of an M16 military rifle, even though it can be fired as rapidly as an AR-15.

Violence with guns was not the pressing issue that it is now during the twenty-five (25) year period between the advent of the Mini 14 and the Columbine event in 1999. During that period the media was talking about "Saturday-Night-Specials" (cheap handguns) and "Zip Guns" (home-made guns, often using car radio antenna sections as barrels) frequently associated with gangs in cities. What changed during that period? More and better hand guns are on the streets because of illegal "straw purchases". The appearance of some long guns has changed but their capability is fundamentally the same. What also has changed is society. When I retired in 2000 I told people if our society deteriorated in the next 36 years as rapidly as it changed during my career, I

would want no role in public education. Most, if not all, retired teachers would agree that this significant negative change has happened. Increased violence is related to this sociological change (more details below) .

The above does not mean that gun legislation based on facts cannot help. If Republicans would agree to swift action on the following proposals and Democrats would commit to avoid banning (with the exception of new high capacity magazines), registration (See proposal #3 for alternative) and licensing (See Proposal #1 for alternative) -- all of which criminals do/would not obey-- lawful gun users would have little to lose and society would have much to gain. The NRA could then direct much more of its money to safety training, mental health research /solutions, school safety, etc. , which they already support extensively. People familiar with both guns and human behavior know that if one category of guns is banned, justifiably or unjustifiably, those inclined to kill will simply choose another kind of gun or method, meaning **the focus must be on keeping all guns out of the wrong hands**. Detailed explanations and justification of the proposals follow.

The Proposals

1. Completion of a required NRA prepared and administered general introductory firearms safety course: This course should also include legal information/implications related to use of a firearm for home and personal defense, including a review of "Castle Doctrine Laws". Upon successful completion of the course a Firearms Proficiency Certificate would be issued to and held by the individual, who would then be required to present the certificate to any seller, donor or lender before purchase or acquisition of any firearm. Applicants for concealed carry permits would be required to present the same certificate. Hunter safety course content could be expanded with different versions offered for adults to meet the above proposed requirement before purchasing or acquiring a gun or permit to carry; "youth hunter safety" could remain the same as is presently offered and upgraded to the adult version before legally acquiring a gun or permit to carry.

Required hunter safety training has proven to be very effective, with hunting accidents nearly eliminated and at a low level compared with the frequency of gun related mistakes in homes. This proposal should improve the firearms in homes safety record. Carrying and using a gun in public involves a different level of responsibility compared to defense in the home. When we consider that most, if not all states , allow only trained persons to hunt (with most hunting done in primarily rural areas), it is absurd to allow untrained persons to have a permit to carry outside the home, particularly in urban areas, without adequate training (including training in the legal implications of using a gun). **No states nor the Congress should pass right-to-carry reciprocal laws until uniform mandatory safety training is included.** The rationale for the above is identical to the reasons why we do not permit untrained/uncertified persons to operate vehicles on our highways; furthermore, when the Founding Fathers inserted the words "... well regulated..." in the 2nd Amendment it is reasonable to assume that they surely expected "...the people..." to be adequately trained in the safe handling of their arms.

If a Medicare Wellness exam or any similar medical or psychological exam, at any time indicates that a certificated person is no longer capable of safely owning and using a firearm, the person, with proper Due-Process recourse, should be ordered to retake the safety course to determine if recertification is appropriate.

2. Restrictions on stock design , magazine capacity and barrel length of modern semi-automatic guns (primarily AR-15 style rifles) that have most of the characteristics of the military M16 rifle: Remington wisely did this from

the beginning of production of the company's modern looking Models R-15 and R-25 semi-automatic hunting rifles which have **fixed stocks and 4 and 5 shot** detachable magazines. (A **5 round detachable or 10 round fixed** magazine would be a very reasonable compromise vs. 30 Round magazines. See Graphic Addendum.)

These design factors not only made the rifles more "politically correct" for sales purposes, but more importantly gives the rifles, as they come from the factory, the same limitations and capability as most traditional hunting rifles with detachable magazines. Rifles with fixed stocks and barrel lengths 18-24 inches or longer are **more difficult to hide in a back-pack** than a folding stock or a rapidly adjustable "telescoping" type stock. Length of fixed hunting stocks can be changed just enough for ergonomic purposes by changing recoil pads or butt plate spacers, but not very rapidly and tools are required. (Congress should have eliminated "bump stocks", which allow semi- automatic guns to function like full automatics, immediately after the Las Vegas, NV massacre.)

Magazine capacity is a much more critical and controversial issue. The NRA calls magazine capacity restrictions arbitrary, and sometimes in the recent past they have been, but limitations are easily justifiable because, even though magazines can be rapidly changed, the greater the magazine capacity, the more people can be killed or injured before a more optimum opportunity arises to disarm a shooter or run from the scene when the gun must be reloaded. More required magazine changes decreases the overall rate-of-fire. Remington made a wise decision when they chose to sell only low capacity magazines, but their Models R-15, R-25 and 7615 rifles all accept larger aftermarket magazines. The 7615 pump action rifle, which accepts up to 30 round magazines, is now discontinued for civilian use; the 7600 rifle is retained with typical hunting capacity magazine and does not accept AR-15 magazines. ***An appropriate definition of a modern "assault weapon" is: A semiautomatic, full automatic, or "burst-fire" personal weapon with high capacity detachable magazine intended for military or defense use; therefore, if magazine capacity is limited to that of a typical hunting gun, assault weapon capability and definition no longer apply.*** (More on magazine capacity resolution In Proposal #6 below.)

Restricting the three design items as described above would completely eliminate any reason to ban "assault rifles" without also banning all hunting semi-automatic and pump action guns*, the thought of which would completely eliminate any possibility of rational compromise in the USA. If ban advocates would concede the Feinstein Bill proposed ten (10) round fixed magazine for a five (5) round detachable magazine and eliminate the bill's superficial rear grip and forearm style requirements, ***Remington's version of a modern rifle should be accepted as the model (guidelines) for AR-15 restrictions, a reasonable compromise by both sides.***

Those who say they **support hunting**, but are calling for the banning of rifles that fire **high velocity cartridges** don't seem to understand that the highly popular,30-'06 cartridge has been used by hunters for more than 100 years. The first hunting cartridge to achieve 3000 feet-per-second, the .250 Savage, was developed in 1915, and hunters have used many higher velocity cartridges ever since. We must remember that these cartridges are legal for hunting in semi-automatic rifles in many states, including fur-bearers like coyotes in Pennsylvania. The compromise solution: **limit magazine capacity**(covered above) **to that of a typical hunting rifle.**

There is another factor that should be considered, **bullet design (terminal ballistics)**, rather than banning rifles. Bullet performance was brought to light during coroners investigations after the Sandy Hook and more recent school shootings. In the past military bullets had a full metal jacket (FMJ) intended to prevent the bullet from expanding very much or fragmenting causing greater internal injury. The purpose was to wound rather than kill.

The 30-'06 cartridge, used by the M1 rifle, had FMJ bullets, as did the .308 used by the M-14; however, the much smaller, 5.56x45 mm, M16 military cartridges use much smaller diameter (.22 caliber), lighter bullets than the predecessors, and smaller FMJ bullets were often less effective with only one shot. The military had the bullets redesigned to make them more lethal. The civilian AR-15 uses the identical sized .233 Rem. cartridge, which is the most popular cartridge used for varmint hunting (like prairie dog, ground hog and coyote control at long distances), when small, thin jacketed, fragile, destructive bullets are desirable for quick, humane kills and the bullet fragmenting helps prevent dangerous ricochets. Cartridges loaded with these **varmint bullets should only be available to hunters** who will use them for their intended purpose; they can be fired in any rifle chambered for them, not just semi-automatics. To purchase them, at minimum, a hunting license could be required, or that requirement could be expanded to include a background check.

Another compromise, that should please those who are extremely concerned about semi-automatics, or all guns for that matter, would be the **vetting of prospective buyers** using two signed questionnaire type forms from two persons who know the buyer well enough to serve as **reliable references**, one could be a medical professional. There is precedent for a requirement like this: References are required on applications for concealed carry permits in Pennsylvania; in Switzerland, with a long pro-gun history, police sometimes consult a psychiatrist when vetting an applicant for a gun permit. *Explanation covered in the background introduction section above.

3. A National Instant Background Check (NICS) conducted on persons purchasing or acquiring **all** firearms, including private and gun show transactions with the following exceptions:

- (a) transfers (sales, gifts, or loans) of legally owned guns to **family members** (spouses, adult domestic partners, sons, daughters, step-children and grandparents).
- (b) temporary transfer (loan or rental) of guns for target shooting or hunting if gun remains on the premises of the owner or an established club or range where the gun owner is a member. Under other temporary transfer conditions the transfer should only be made if the parties involved know each other well. A NICS Form 4473, obtained from the Internet or a Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder, could be filled out by the transferee and held by the gun owner until custody is returned to the owner. Temporary transfer periods should have a time limit. The latter part of this item is intended to give the firearm owner some degree of liability protection in cases when the owner is not in a position to supervise or monitor use of the gun. It is a **Federal felony**, including a 10 year prison term, **to transfer a gun to a person the transferor knows or should have known to be ineligible to pass the NICS check** (criminal/felon, mentally ill or mentally incompetent, drug or alcohol abuser). In cases of private transfers an NICS check might actually help protect the transferor from legal responsibility for a aforementioned felon. It is also a **Federal felony to give false information** on the 4473 NICS form. Six of the executive actions signed by President Obama were intended to make NICS checks more effective in keeping guns from the wrong hands.

All information provided by telephone or Internet in the completion of the NICS check on any person lawfully permitted to own a firearm currently must be **deleted within forty-eight (48) hours after the check is passed**. A person having proved to have **knowingly lied** on the background check form should be prosecuted for having committed perjury. The cost of any new required private transaction check should be paid by the transferee,

with a fair, affordable, uniform fee established by the Congress (not the attorney general) and applied nationally. The system should be expanded relative to capacity and shared data base with increased reasonable, required information on persons with **mental illness** and **known criminal behavior**. (The NICS is a check of the potential gun owner for the right of lawful and safe ownership; it should not lawfully result in information about firearms, leading to gun registration and stored in a government data base(s), beyond what is presently being done. In Pennsylvania information about hand guns transferred is entered on a separate (additional) form which is forwarded to the PA State Police. Information about all guns is entered on the back side of Form 4473, and those forms must be held by the Federal Firearms License holder after completion of the transfer for a period of twenty (20) years; if the FFL is given up the 4473 forms must be forwarded to FTA. In effect all guns transferred using the NISC are presently registered, but not held in a central data base. No additional registration is deemed necessary. These locally FFL owner filed forms are primary evidence in the prosecution of persons having lied on the form. However, **the federal government must be required to commit to and follow-up on individuals who fail the check if a back ground check system is to be effective**, and more so if the system is expanded as suggested above. In a decade 700,000 persons have been "flagged", and according to NRA, more than 70,000 were turned over to the Justice Department by the FBI, with less than 100 having been prosecuted by Justice. When questioned about this by an NRA representative at a meeting of the Biden Gun Control Committee, V. P. Biden replied, "We do not have time... ". Repeat: Background checks are not about specific guns, which the NRA claims will lead to registration of guns; NISC checks are about people, to prevent people who have forfeited their right to own a gun by some past behavior that indicates that **the individual is unfit to own and use a gun lawfully**.

At the time of any transfer requiring a background check, the new owners information and a description (including model and serial number) of the transferred gun could be sent to a **private NRA held "Cloud" account**, where this information would be held, unavailable to any party, with the exception of local police, and only after approval by a local district justice or higher court. This process would be of value in the implementation of Proposals #5 and #7 below, without jeopardizing the legal use of any gun. If an owner chose to enter all his or her guns into this system, in a case of any kind of loss, retrieving the information might be very helpful; example: an insurance claim. This information system, monitored by the NRA, and serving both gun owners and law enforcement would be a **compromise far more acceptable to gun owners than government registration**.

4. **Longer waiting periods** (time to be determined) established for the purchase of hand guns , semi-automatic and pump action long guns (rimfire rifles could be excluded): These guns are currently a primary choice of criminals and potential killers with serious mental problems, and are the guns most frequently displayed in violent TV shows, movies and video games. Local law enforcement administrators should be allowed to grant exemptions from waiting period requirements if an individual demonstrates that he/she is in imminent danger and should be permitted to have a gun for personal defense (as in the case of a person who has been granted a Protection From Abuse order). Evidence of required safety training as described in Proposal #1 above should be presented before the gun is received in all cases.

Waiting period exceptions could be made at time of sale for those purchasing a gun for hunting if a valid hunting license and written permission signed by one owner or leaser of land where hunting will take place is presented to the seller, and if a minor is accompanied by an adult parent or guardian.

5. The **theft or loss of all firearms should be reported** to local law enforcement within 24 hours of discovery of the loss or theft. Owners should be required to keep an accurate list including descriptions, serial and model numbers of all guns owned so that information can be included on the theft/loss report.** Why would the owner of a lawfully acquired gun not want the thief caught and the gun found and safely returned as fast as possible , hopefully before the gun is used to commit a crime or damaged? (**See Proposal #3, last paragraph.)

6. **Magazine capacity** of all newly manufactured or imported firearms be limited to ten (10) rounds or with hand guns the magazine should not extend from the bottom of the hand grip. Magazine capacity is the only thing that makes one gun technically different from another of identical action type and cartridge fired. In fact, the use of larger capacity detachable magazines, which hold smaller, less powerful cartridges, is the only significant enhancement of the over-all rate-of-fire of semi-automatic small arms since the introduction of the M1 Garand in 1930; the M1 has a fixed magazine loaded with an eight (8) round clip which automatically flies out of the magazine when empty. Other more recent differences are primarily ergonomic or cosmetic. This is not understood by many people who propose banning guns they call assault weapons. If the magazine is removed from any repeating gun the gun can only function as a "single shot", not that I am suggesting that as a requirement because rapid follow-up shots are often needed in the ethical taking of game. A pump action shotgun rather than a double-barrel was suggested above for personal defense because of the magazine capacity of the former (generally 5 - 7 rounds), a possible life-saving asset in a situation justifying self-defense. Larger capacity magazines are only needed and justifiable in a true 2nd Amendment, civilian militia required situation as in the case of an unlikely attempt by a foreign invader. Gun manufactures would be **wise to take the lead and limit the capacity** of all new magazines, before public opinion (voters) force them to do so.

In support of the above: When Dr. Ben Carson was campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination he suggested that the best way for an unarmed person to stop an active shooter was too "...**rush the shooter**"; however, Dr. Carson did not say, or if he did the media did not report, when to do that or run from the scene if possible. Rushing a shooter in the act of firing might be considered very foolish; the most logical time for this kind of exhibition of bravery is **when the magazine goes empty**. A five round magazine would require five more magazine changes compared to a 30 round; therefore, magazine capacity limitations are highly justifiable. The Gabby Gifford shooting scene is an example of the advantage to the public of a lower capacity magazine; in the Gifford case **the shooter was disarmed** by a by-stander **after the magazine was empty** and before the pistol could be reloaded. A Sandy Hook shooting victim's mother is petitioning for **ten round limits** to provide future potential victims **more safe opportunities to run**.

The availability of large capacity magazines increases the threat of a "bad guy", and more so when a "good guy" with a gun is not on the scene. Limiting magazine capacity will not solve the violence problem, with all the underlying causes, but some injuries prevented or lives saved certainly justify this **compromise or concession** by empathetic, conscientious, law-abiding gun owners. If magazine capacity is legally limited, NICS background checks could be required before the sale or transfer of all "grandfathered" higher capacity magazines, and the same exceptions as described in Proposal #3 above would be appropriate. The same safe storage requirements out-lined in Proposal #7 should apply to large capacity magazines.

We limit the total capacity of **shotguns used to hunt** small game and waterfowl **to three (3) rounds**. Then why would we not limit the magazines of firearms most frequently used in violent crimes? (A proposal to permit the use of semiautomatic rifles for big game hunting in PA would limit capacity to five (5) rounds in the magazine

with a 6th in the chamber, as in Proposal #2 above.) **Large capacity magazines are not needed for hunting or protection in the home.**

Guns used in formal, registered, or league **competition should be exempt** from this magazine requirement when fired on an established range; magazine capacity of those guns intended for and used in competition could be limited to that required for each phase of the course-of-fire, including sighter shots.

7. Responsible safe storage for any firearm left unattended in any place which is inhabited by a youth (age range to be established) or a person known to be ineligible (by NICS standards) to legally own a gun should be required, with guns kept in approved locked storage (closet, cabinet, or locker) with a trigger lock (as additional prevention). Guns stored in fire certified gun safes could be exempt from trigger locks. Required "thick" steel gun specific safes would be the ideal; but these safes are expensive, and requiring them of all gun owners would discriminate against lower income persons. All safe storage should be **double locked with both key and combination**. Keys/lock combinations cannot be available to the above mentioned persons. Approved safe storage is required in most developed countries, because owning and using a firearm is a serious responsibility, and safely securing the gun is part of that responsibility. Gun owners should be held legally responsible if an unsecured gun is used by an unauthorized person in an accident or a crime.

8. Report an Unsafe Gun Owner: A law similar to "report unsafe driver laws" has been applied to guns and enacted in a least five states: California, Connecticut, Indiana , Oregon, and Washington. The laws are called "red-flag" laws or gun-violence restraint laws. They can be genuinely helpful and effective in that they allow those close to or aware of a person who shows signs of violence and owns guns, an opportunity to intercede directly before a shooting happens by filing a **Request for Gun Owner Review Form** which causes authorities to go before a judge and seek an order to temporarily take guns away from the person and then decide whether the guns should be restored. If the guns are not restored a due process appeal procedure can be started, and if the appeal appears to have merit the NRA or ACLU could choose to step in and assist. As an example, this process would have given citizens and school officials in the Parkland, FL mass school shooting situation an opportunity to try to prevent the shooting.

9. Stop and search techniques used in high gun crime areas to remove illegally carried or stolen guns: This practice might cause some to scream "racial profiling" and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to "violently" object; however, with daily violence at an epidemic, even national emergency, level it can be argued that sufficient "just cause" for this type of search exists. Is the legality of these searches different from that of DUI check points or out of the home drug searches? If violent illegal gun use is truly a national emergency, would occasional use of the National Guard to assist police be inappropriate to **stop and frisk with cause**? Searches of this type might be highly effective when few other alternatives with immediate results are not available, but they would have to be closely monitored for abuse. Other long term solutions should be given appropriate priority, explored and initiated; such as: education including school drop-out prevention; job/saleable skill training relative to available jobs and job creation; dysfunctional family resolution including parenting skills, family planning and availability and influence of fathers as role models; safe recreation areas; along with many other factors (see Proposal #15 below).

10. Age limitation: If the devil is ever in the details it is when age limitations are considered and enacted as was done by Florida after the Parkland school shooting. Related facts: **Most school shootings are done by young**

people (private sector/business shootings are usually done by adults); youth can hunt without an adult and learn to drive at age 16 in PA; youth can vote and serve in the military at age 18; persons must be 21 to buy and consume alcohol and to buy a hand gun. Dictionary definitions of "militia" include all able bodied males who are not members of the regular, professional military, with some specifically stating 18 year olds and above. If an 18 year old is capable of being trained by and successfully serves in the regular armed forces to defend the country, that does not necessarily mean that all 18-20 year olds are mature enough to use firearms unsupervised under all conditions. As examples, consider the relatively high accident rate of teen drivers, and the trouble that some college students get themselves into with alcohol, justifying the age 21 to drink requirement.

I bought my first shotgun when I started hunting with my dad at age 12 and my rifle for big game when I was 14; my dad was by my side when I made both of those purchases. With current hunter safety course and land owner permission requirements, and target/competition shooting in organized, adult supervised, youth club programs, the youth with guns issue different. In hunting and club situations special regulations and vetting requirements could be designed to permit younger people to purchase guns for those purposes. Other conditions or circumstances require further consideration in today's society. The NRA is defending the 2nd Amendment rights and hunting privileges of 18-20 year olds, but the **school and street shooting statistics** involving young people cannot be ignored. The NRA and all other law abiding gun owners must remember that existing laws to punish criminals after the fact do not bring murdered persons back to life. Even though most shootings, including school shootings, are done with easily concealable hand guns, with all of the above considered it is justifiable to raise the age for buying **semi-automatic and pump action long guns** to age 21. I bought my granddaughter a rifle for hunting when she was 12; she was at my side helping me answer the background check form questions . The rifle is safely stored at my house.

11. Adequate, trained, armed protection provided for schools as determined by local parents in conjunction with school authorities: These trained persons would not have to be in uniform and firearms carried would **not have to** be displayed openly. This could involve active or retired police officers; police sub-stations/satellite offices in school buildings; and/or certain volunteer, highly trained persons judged to have the appropriate mental temperament and experience. Schools are large buildings and more than one person in this capacity might be needed to increase the chances of success, requiring considerable discretion in an active situation to avoid cross firing and harm to students and faculty. Children frequently see uniformed, armed security at many venues without becoming fearful. School security personnel could be trained to work with bullying and other non-life threatening situations, with a goal of establishing friendly, trusting rapport with students. **Other options for schools:** Metal detectors and electronically locked better doors with video camera monitoring connected to central control panels would be very helpful. Another option, worthy of serious consideration, would be walled **"gated school campuses "**, to provide play ground/ athletic field security, which might be more practical for smaller schools. Architectural features such as the design of hallway configuration is being explored.

12. A voluntary or required (to the extent constitutionally possible) significant limitation of the amount of violence , particularly with semi-automatic firearms, shown in video games, movies and TV shows (including news coverage)in an attempt to reduce what appears to be increasing insensitivity to violence and increased interest in and negative fascination with guns by young people. Surely there is a **"copy-cat" relationship** between videos and actual events , just as there is following active killings. As an example of how video entertainment has deteriorated, early police and western TV shows (example: "Dragnet") often showed the hero

(a positive role model "good guy") capturing the criminal alive at gun point, and in a final scene the criminal was often shown behind bars; now we often see the criminal shot in a violent blood bath and the "hero" is not always a good guy. Many persons, particularly young people, are overly fascinated with AR-15 style rifles and semi-automatic hand guns because that is what they see and know on various media screens. Young males, a few being mentally and/or socially disadvantaged, do not seem to be interested in older semi-auto guns, not only because they are not common in visual media, but also because they do not look "tact cool" (visual characteristics of modern tactical weapons).

This on screen media influence in the U.S. is very different from the effects on youth in a very different "gun culture" in Switzerland, where young people live with citizen militiamen parents who often keep their government issued military arms in their homes. Youth are taught to shoot safely at a young age, and every September boys and girls aged 13-17 continue a long tradition when they flock to the **Knabenschiessen** in Zurich to compete using Swiss army service rifles. Winners are awarded, and a King and Queen of the event are selected. That does not mean that Switzerland does not have some rigid gun laws. Guns are allowed in homes, but are not permitted to be carried on the street unless transported for hunting or to target ranges.

When I earned the Boy Scout Marksmanship Merit Badge we learned firearms safety and shooting skills along with a sense of responsibility, just as I taught to both Jr. and Sr. high intramural rifle clubs when I was an instructor in a public school district. When a state policeman did a gun safety presentation at our week long Boy Scout camp we gathered behind the policeman on one side of the swimming pond to listen and watch. He "sprayed" bullets across the water with a Thompson, full automatic, sub-machine gun with 100 round drum magazine. Then he did the same thing with a semi-automatic pistol to illustrate the slower rate-of-fire. The scouts' fascination with that sub-machine gun was very different from the fascination today's "video game crowd" has for the guns they are using to "mow down" people on the screen in front of them. Society has changed; we scouts related the sub-machine gun to murderous mobsters and bank robbers, and understood that when the full automatics were outlawed only outlaws, police and the military had them. We did not anticipate owning one, and when we, my wife and her childhood girl friend included, played "cops and robbers" with cap guns, we had no thought of killing real people. Our society has changed!

Some of the interest in tactical style guns shown by veterans after returning from wars is attributed to having used similar looking weapons in the military; this explains the interest in, respect for, or in many cases, even nostalgia WW II vets had/have for the semi-automatic M1 Garand, and M14 and M16 rifles used later, for which formal, organized competitions are still held. After WW I ended many surplus Springfield and Enfield bolt action rifles were modified to convert them to "sporters" for big game hunting for the same reasons. Thousands of these surplus rifles were available to private citizens and rarely, if ever, used in crimes.

13. "Harden" Gun Shops: Gun shop owners must assume the same security responsibilities as private citizens for the same reasons. A total of 132 guns, mostly hand guns, were stolen from three south central Pennsylvania gun shops in a period of just several weeks. Other thefts happened across the country in the same short time frame. This is unacceptable and must be prevented with new secure storage requirements for gun shops, including reasonable, but tough penalties for non-compliance. Gun retailers should be represented in the establishment of these standards. There are various options, including armed security on the premises at all times.

14. Government Funding for Violence Related Research: On 03/14/2018, the Dr. Oz TV show featured a panel consisting of a Criminalologist, a Psychiatrist (both with PhDs and lengthy training and experience working with people who have both violent tendencies/past behavior along with mental problems); a third panel member was a medical doctor. The group talked about the miss-prescribing and miss use of depression and other behavior drugs that can sometimes cause rather than prevent violence. The group emphasized the need for much better and many more highly trained professionals to identify and work with potentially violent persons (medical doctors included), plus the need for much more funded **research related to detection and treatment** of violent tendencies. Provider - patient privilege issues were also discussed.

The Virginia Tech shooter had been declared mentally ill and was ordered to attend treatment, and one of the two Columbine shooters was on psychiatric medication. How many other active shooters have been undiagnosed mental cases who slipped through an inadequate system?

15. Long term solutions intended to cause appropriate, positive human behaviors should be given a much higher priority, explored and initiated or expanded; for example: emphasis on education including school drop-out prevention, job/saleable skill training relative to available jobs and job creation, dysfunctional family resolution including parenting skills and family planning, availability and influence of fathers as positive role models, safe recreation areas, etc.

Rev. Billy Graham proposed displaying the ***Ten Commandments*** in all class rooms because they include elements relative to appropriate human behavior common to all major world religions. Violence results from **lack of respect**. It was written in the January 23, 2014 edition of USA Today that respect in schools is dwindling because respect is not taught in many homes, resulting in self-respect and respect for the worth, possessions and ideas of others having hit an all-time low. The following list, based on some of the *Ten Commandments* rewritten in a positive, generic, contemporary, universal form which should be acceptable to all, could be posted and referred to extensively in schools to **teach respect, leading to reduced violence**. The list could also serve as a basis for classroom management and a foundation for anti-bullying programs.

To Be Successful and Happy

1. Respect and protect the property of others without being envious.
2. Respect and protect others without violence or verbal abuse.
3. Respect and listen to others who can and want to help you.
4. Choose friends and partners who are worthy of (deserve) your respect and trust, and be loyal to them.
5. Always tell the truth and keep promises. Your words are important.
6. Learn to improve yourself, other people and the environment, and practice what you have learned.
7. Treat other people the same way that you would like to be treated.

Jay Leno type, random street interviews with youth might reveal that many young people have never heard of *The Commandments* and have "no clue" what they teach; I/we shall not... is not a priority or even present in their verbal or thinking process. (The above take-off from the *Commandments* was written while sitting at my portable shooting bench during a morning ground hog hunt.)

A Lancaster, PA newspaper commentary described a program that has been in existence in several USA cities for a decade or longer with some success. The underlying premise of the programs is: **violence is a learned behavior which can be unlearned**, rather than relying on legislation to try to solve the problem. Human behaviors can be changed, but generally behavior cannot be legislated when there is criminal intent. However, legislation would be required for most of the common sense, "middle of the road" proposals outlined in items 1 - 14 above.

Richard Weissbourd, a Harvard psychologist with the graduate school of education, runs the Making Caring Common project aimed at **teaching kids to be kind**. The project has five strategies to raise moral, caring, respectful and responsible children. According to a study released by Weissbourd's group, about eighty percent of parents are not teaching these values. If this statistic is close to being accurate, do we need to ask why so many youth and adults resort to violence, which is then often blamed on guns?

Retired John Hopkins Hospital neurosurgeon, writer and public speaker, Dr. Ben Carson and his wife Candy, in conjunction with the Jay and Carol Jean Young Foundation, have started a program called the Carson Scholars Fund to **encourage character building** in schools. Carson spoke at the program kick-off held at Columbine High school, Colorado, in honor of the students that were killed there. **Much more emphasis on character building is a logical approach to violence reduction.**

The Position of the NRA : The NRA position is that there are already sufficient laws on the books, (which is obviously true if all laws could be enforced and were obeyed, which obviously does not happen, because criminals do not obey all laws and are, therefore, called criminals). The NRA strongly supports/advocates "... meaningful efforts to address the problems of violent crime and mass violence in America, through swift and certain prosecution of violent criminals; securing our schools, and fixing our...[inadequate] mental health system." NRA thinking is that additional laws will tax (monetarily), and/or limit the Second Amendment rights of law abiding persons, and will not be obeyed by criminals and the mentally ill. The NRA has excellent safety courses for most all lawful uses, but NRA has not supported required training of all owners, with the exception of hunters (**see Proposal #1**); they think that would lead to licensing of owners which is opposed. The NRA has withdrawn support for expanded background checks (**see Proposal #3**), because some advocates of expansion of the system are now calling for the inclusion of gun registration as part of the program, and it is feared that licensing and/or registration will not solve the violence with guns problem, and therefore, will/might eventually lead to confiscation. The NRA does not trust all politicians, and has ample reason for same. Examples follow.

Shortly before the 2012 election the Obama administration withdrew support for the proposed **U.N. Small Arms Trade Treaty** and American gun owners relaxed with a "sigh-of-relief". Shortly after that election, President

Obama and the State Department were again supporting this proposal, which the NRA and knowledgeable gun owners consider a serious threat to 2nd Amendment rights of Americans. It is easy to understand the why and timing of this politically motivated move of the president. This U.N. proposal is supported by dictators and other oppressive governments from around the world. President Obama openly expressed support for the 2nd Amendment in televised debate before the election, but if the NRA is correct about the possible effects of the U.N. proposal for Americans, the president's later position can be considered to be deceitful. The treaty could have other undesirable effects for American sportsmen, not directly related to the 2nd Amendment, because serious competitors and discriminating hunters rely on guns and ammunition reloading components made in other countries, particularly Europe. Several examples follow: Jamie Bierly, our Olympic gold medal winner in small bore rifle, from Lebanon, PA, could not buy an appropriate commercially produced competition rifle in the U.S. (she used an Anschutz from Germany); our women's clay target gold medalist probably was not using an American made shotgun (the majority of competitive and recreational clay target shooting is now done with guns made in Japan or Europe); bench rest competitors (the competition that requires the highest level of precision) and serious long range varmint hunters, like myself, use American made custom rifles but they rely on cartridge brass and some powder made in Europe; Sako rifles from Finland are a favorite of many serious hunters (I have one), and shotguns from Europe and Japan are used by small game and waterfowl hunters, and clay target shooters.

Sen. Schumer, Sen. Feinstein ("If I could I'd get rid of all of them."), Mayor Bloomberg, former Attorney General Holder (of "Fast and Furious" fame) and other politicians have led gun owners to not trust their word/motives; Sen. Schumer first said his universal back-ground check bill would not include gun registration, and a short time later he was supporting registration. This work also does not suggest registration of long guns. Hand gun registration has been required in Pennsylvania for many years with little observable effect in reducing misuse/violence. Daily news reports verify this. Furthermore, the above proposals are intended to be acceptable to persons on both sides of the issue. Sportsman and others who own/use guns for legitimate/lawful purposes will not accept additional registration, considering it not only as an unjustifiable tax (in the form of renewable registration fees) and more importantly, the possible first step leading to confiscation and violation of the Founders intent of the Second Amendment, rather than a reduction in violence. Canada started registration of long guns shortly after year 2000, but that practice has been discontinued in all areas except Quebec because the effectiveness was judged to be not worth the expense.

Advocates of gun registration often argue that the same reasons we register automobiles apply, but there are major differences, making gun registration ineffective in violence prevention. Guns, particularly hand guns, are easily concealed/hidden and the serial numbers are easily removed as is observed by the police when illegally owned guns are confiscated. Guns illegally obtained through **theft and straw sales** would not be registered. Has motor vehicle registration, with exception of the associated required annual safety inspection, resulted in the elimination of misuse of vehicles (human error/accidents, DUI, general use in crime or intentionally driven into large crowds to kill)? **Licensing drivers** is much more productive in saving lives than registering guns, relating to the purpose of **Proposal #1**, requiring a firearms safety training certificate before purchases

After recent killings and a rash of copy-cat false school scares, the NRA might be the most disliked and most misunderstood organization in the country by non-gun owners. The NRA boasts about the 5 million plus membership, seemingly overlooking or forgetting the millions of young students (future voters) and adults that

are newly into a movement for change. All law abiding gun owners should work hard at pressuring the **NRA to "join-others-at-the-table"** and become a much stronger force in supporting the kinds of proposals offered in this paper **to do what can be done now.**

We need to take a serious look at our society and determine exactly why many people in the U. S. have such a great propensity for violence (research suggested in **Proposal #14**), and develop a plan for making the small and major changes required to permanently change society in all areas that relate to violence. (Example programs have been described in **Proposal #15**.) Social issues that started to appear prior to and since the Columbine shooting have been growing for a generation or more, and much cannot be resolved in less than a generation, but **rapid application of the proposals in this paper would serve as effective immediate progress** . The NRA and law-abiding gun owners are not the cause of the societal problems underlying this violence. We should remember that Cain was not a member of the "National Club and Rock Association" before he killed Abel.* If gun ownership is a prime cause of violence, Switzerland would be among the most violent countries in the world, when actually the exact opposite is true. Switzerland, with military style guns in many homes and a culture that often involves children with guns as early as age ten, has 1/10 the murder rate of the United States per 100,000 persons. (*A thought offered by a Columbine High School tragedy victim's father in testimony before a U.S. Congress committee.)

The Founders: Then and "Now": There are some who are presumptuously saying that the 2nd Amendment no longer applies and should be repealed. Because we cannot interview the Founding Fathers who wrote the Amendment to get their reaction, we can only speculate or assume. They might remind us that their amendment says "...the people...", it does not say "some of the people (citizens)." If Mr. Webster's dictionary in the Founders era used the same definition of "militia" as ours, the citizen militia members whose "...right to bear arms shall not be infringed" were not members of an organized armed service (neither a state or federal army , reserves or national guard). However, surely we can assume that this unorganized citizens militia that the Founders intended to be "...well regulated...", **would only consist of those who are law abiding, able bodied (including of-sound-mind), and capable of proficient and safe use of their personal arms.**

The Founders, remembering how effective their "modern" Pennsylvania rifles were out to 150 yards or more, compared to the British smooth bore muskets, capable of only 50 yard accuracy, most likely would expect/want today's citizen militia to have equivalent or better personal small arms than that had by an adversary, domestic or foreign. Hopefully the need for the latter is unlikely, but if the Founders were told the thought is absurd, they might remind us how and why **The American Committee for the Defense of British Homes** was formed to collect and send guns to British citizens when Hitler was threatening to invade England during WW II. The NRA collected more than 7000 guns for this cause, which was necessary because British citizens were stripped of most of their guns by their own government after WW I, causing US citizens to rearm the British "militia". The British did not want muzzle loaders and none were sent.

If the Founders were able to return and learn of **school shootings** surely they would be appalled, and most likely be thinking, "We don't recall youth trying to kill large numbers, or any students at school for that matter, with any weapon; what changed?" If told about the present **daily killings on the streets** of our cities they might respond by saying, "That rarely happened in our time, and when it did, it sometimes was done more fairly by two 'gentlemen' settling a grudge or responding to an act of ill will by facing each other with a matched pair of

dueling pistols." Today the Founders might remind us that in **the not too distant past fist fights** were much more common than shootings, stabbings and bombings (like the serial bomber in the Austin, Texas area; 3/2018).

Since 1903 the, little known, US Government supported **Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP)**, administered by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM), has supplied surplus military rifles and ammunition to affiliated junior and senior clubs (local school teams have participated). Rifles are available for purchase by qualified adult club members. No M16 rifles are available because they are full automatic, but the older semi-automatic M1 and M14 are still available; only bolt action .22 rimfire target models are loaned to junior clubs. Because the purpose of the CMP is to promote civilian marksmanship preparedness, in line with the 2nd Amendment, the Founders would most likely endorse the program.

It is likely that the Founders would be astonished to learn that **self-defense is not a permitted reason for owning a gun in some countries** like Australia and England. They might respond by asking, "What is a 130 pound chap to do if attacked by a 230 pound, knife wielding thief and no 'great equalizer' to defend himself."

The Founders would be absolutely amazed at the awesome capability of modern military equipment, realizing immediately that citizens with the most recent small arms would be no match for that kind of destructive power. But after further consideration the Founders just might conclude that if the U.S. was attacked by a tyrannical "Commander-in Chief" and/or rogue generals or a foreign government, definitely much unfortunate death and destruction would result, but the country might be difficult, if not impossible, to occupy with all those guns in the hands of any remaining militia, particularly in the former situation if enough active military personnel, for love of country, chose to honor their enlistment oath to protect the Constitution and deserted to stand with the citizen militia. The country/Constitution just might be saved. (Hypothetical, but hopefully thought provoking.) Did the thought of facing an armed citizen militia (meaning the 2nd Amendment) deter Japan from attempting to invade the US after the Pearl Harbor attack?

One would think that the Founders would have known that **dictators disarm their citizens**. If the following **Aristotle quote** is correct, our country's Founders were not the first to support the 2nd Amendment concept: "[For those who choose to participate with arms] In a polity, each citizen is to possess his own arms, which are not supplied or owned by the state."

Please consider what can be done, or what you can do, to bring any or all of the proposals described above to reality.

By: Dennis W. Wade

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Remington Hunting Rifles



**MODEL 7615™
RANCH CARBINE**
Only available in: 223 Remington



MODEL 7600™
*Available in: 243 Win, 270 Win,
30-06 Sprg. Carbine, 30-06 Sprg., 308 Win*



MODEL 7600™ SYNTHETIC
*Available in: 243 Win, 270 Win,
30-06 Sprg. Carbine, 30-06 Sprg., 308 Win*



MODEL R-15 VTR™ SS VARMIN
Available in: 223 Remington



MODEL R-15 VTR™ THUMBHOLE
Available in: 223 Remington



MODEL R-15 VTR™ PREDATOR RIFLE
Available in: 204 Ruger, 223 Remington



MODEL 750™ WOODSMASTER™
*Available in: 243 Win, 308 Win, 308 Win Carbine, 270 Win,
30-06 Sprg. Carbine, 30-06 Sprg., 35 Whelen, 35 Whelen Carbine*



MODEL 750™ SYNTHETIC
*Available in: 243 Win, 270 Win, 30-06 Sprg. Carbine,
30-06 Sprg., 308 Win, 308 Win Carbine*

For complete model listings and specifications, see page 99.



(See Back Side)

Remington Centerfire Pump Action and Semi- Automatic Hunting Rifles

(See photographic page)

The top rifle is the Model 7615, a version of the extremely popular Model 760/7600 pump action hunting rifle. The 7615 came with a factory 10 round magazine, but can accept up to 30 round after market AR15 style magazines. It has been discontinued to the general public and is only available to law enforcement. Used guns are available.

The next two are Model 7600 pump action hunting rifles, popular in situations when rapid follow up shots might be expected and often used in thick cover.

The three rifles in the center group (Model R-15) are the most modern hunting rifles, on a semi-automatic AR-15 "platform". They differ from the typical AR-15 only in that they have **fixed**, rather than adjustable **stocks**, a factory **5 round magazine**, and possibly **longer barrel**. They will accept larger capacity after market magazines. They are very popular for wild hog and coyote hunting when multiple kills are legal and/or running game shots probable, making multiple shots a likely possibility. With no need to manually cycle the action a "smooth" swing for more accurate follow-up shots is possible.* The "pistol style" pistol grip, as opposed to the traditional "revolver style" pistol grip, make the rifle more ergonomic in some firing positions. With the 4 or 5 round factory magazines, the Model R-15 or Model R-25 (a version of the AR-10 for larger cartridges) have **identical rates-of-fire capability as the two Model 750 traditional styled hunting rifles at the bottom of the page**, and there is **very little difference in the rate-of-fire of the pump action models**.

*Mass shooters generally do not use marksmanship techniques; they "spray" bullets from large capacity magazines when they have them, and the more accurate, "smooth" swing advantage of a self-cycling gun is not the factor in those cases as it is in hunting or clay target shooting. This is a major reason for **limiting access to large capacity magazines**. Even though detachable magazines can be rapidly replaced, more frequent magazine changes when reloading is required provides **more and safer opportunities to escape from an active shooter scene or disarm an active shooter**.

Photo: Lancaster [PA]Sunday News outdoor editor, PJ Reilly, with a coyote taken with his R-15 or R-25 Remington semi-automatic rifle (with 5 or 4 round magazine). Mr. Reilly has also killed wild hogs with the rifle. These rifles are also legal for big game hunting in many states.

Glossary: Firearms Terms

Rifle: a shoulder mounted firearm with ***spiraling grooves*** (rifling) inside the barrel to cause a ***single projectile*** (bullet) to spin and travel much more accurately over long distances, like a spiraling football

Shotgun: a shoulder mounted firearm with a relatively large diameter, ***smooth bore*** (without rifling grooves) designed to fire many pellets ("***bird shot***") for small game hunting and clay target sports, or a small number of large balls called "***buck shot***" for big game hunting. Shotguns are only effective at ranges (distances) much shorter than rifles, but they can be very lethal.

Assault Rifle: a personal automatic, semi-automatic or select fire rifle with high capacity detachable magazine used for military or law enforcement purposes; ***automatic and select fire rifles are not available for civilian use.***

Round: a "live"--unfired--shotgun shell or metallic rifle or pistol cartridge ready for firing

Magazine: an ammunition storage and feeding device within or attached to a repeating firearm. Magazines can be either removable (***detachable***) or integral (***fixed***) to the firearm. Magazines are generally "box" shaped (detachable or fixed) or tubular which are not removable for loading and unloading. With extra loaded detachable magazines a gun can be reloaded very rapidly.

Clip: a device used to store individual rounds of ammunition together as a single unit that is ready for insertion into a fixed magazine of a rifle or revolving cylinder of a revolver style handgun

Action (Receiver): the firing mechanism that handles the ammunition--loads, fires the projectile(s) and extracts the spent cartridge case/shell after firing; also used to describe the method (type of action) by which that mechanism works.

Action Types: (1) **Full Automatic** - continues to fire as long as the trigger is held in the firing position

(2) **Semi-automatic** - fires one shot each time the trigger is pulled and reloads another round with no manual effort by the shooter

(3) **Select Fire** - can be set to fire in automatic, semi-automatic, or short burst (a pre-determined number of shots automatically) mode; ***Automatic and Select Fire actions are not available to civilians.***

(4) **Pump Action** - The forearm used to hold the forward end of the gun slides back and forward to manually cycle live rounds of ammunition from the magazine into the action. Both hands remain in position on the gun; therefore, the gun can be fired very rapidly, with a rate-of-fire (action cycling time) nearly as fast as a semi-automatic action.

(5) **Lever Action** - A lever hinged from the bottom of the action is swung down and up to cycle new live rounds of ammunition into the firing chamber of the gun. This action is somewhat slower than a pump action because the hand operating the action does not remain in the firing position when the action is operated.

(6) **Bolt Action** - The "bolt" which locks the new live round in the firing chamber has a handle which is rotated up to unlock and pulled rearward to load a new round into the chamber. The process is completed by returning the bolt to the firing position. The turn bolt action is the slowest of the repeating actions. A straight pull bolt action which does not require rotation of the bolt handle, but is not as strong, is sometimes used for faster cycling time, as in Olympic style biathlon competition. Turn bolt actions have the greatest potential for maximum accuracy and are used for long range hunting and competition.

(7) **Break Action** - The action is hinged at the bottom near the center, and when it is unlocked with a thumb operated lever the action "breaks" open to allow either automatic or manual removal of fired shells/cartridge cases or to manually unload live ammunition. The action is "broken" open to load it. Double barrel shotguns and double barrel dangerous game rifles use break actions. They function as two shot semiautomatic repeating guns. Single barrel (single shot) rifles and shot guns often use break style actions.

(8) **Revolver** – a repeating handgun with a rotating cylinder with generally 6 - 9 firing chambers to hold rounds of ammunition

Caliber: the bore diameter of a gun barrel; rifle and handgun barrels are measured in thousands of an inch or millimeters; shotgun barrel diameters are indicated with a gauge number system.)

Fixed Stock: the rear shoulder mounted part of a long gun which can only be removed, lengthened or shortened (by adding or removing spacers) with a tool(s); a stock that is not telescoping adjustable for length, folding, or quick removable without tools. A fixed stock makes a shoulder mounted long gun less easily concealed.

Tactical or Military Style: suggests, implies, or indicates defense or law enforcement use

Choke: varying amounts of constriction at the muzzle end of a shotgun barrel designed to control the spread of the shot pellets to change the effect range of the gun and improve accuracy

Shot/Sporting Clays/Trap: three shotgun games (sports) using machine thrown clay targets and fired on different courses

Rimfire: designates small metallic cartridges (rounds) with the "priming" compound which ignites the gun powder being located in the rim of the cartridge case; the most common example is the old and very popular .22 Long Rifle cartridge used for small game and recreational and formal target shooting

Terminal Ballistics: the performance (effect) of the bullet/projectile(s) after they hit/enter the target

Slug: a bullet/projectile usually conical in shape as opposed to round balls; commonly refers to a single projectile used in a shotgun shell for hunting big game

FTA: the Federal agency responsible for enforcing laws and regulations controlling firearms, tobacco and alcohol

April, 2, 2018

Mr. Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice-President, NRA
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Mr. LaPierre:

Please allow me to introduce myself. For more than sixty (60) years I have been deeply involved with the shooting sports: as a hunter starting at age twelve (12) (in seven states and Canada), rifle competitor, recreational clay target shooter, public school intra-mural rifle club instructor and varsity rifle team coach, and published writer (two magazine articles). As a coach my teams have won PA State Jr. In-door Championships in three (3) categories (High Girl, Girls Team, and Open Team), and placed 5th in the NRA Indoor National Sectional Championships in the overall Scholastic Category. After designing and building the school range, I supervised students firing over 100,000 rounds through a sixteen (16) year period.

I started reading the *American Rifleman* in the school library in Jr. High School, and have been an NRA member for more than fifty (50) years. During all those years (with significant changes in our society) I have made myself and continue to be a serious student of **misuse of firearms**. I hope the above "resume" will give me a reasonable level of credibility on that subject.

As a member of both the **NRA and the Republican Party**, I am extremely concerned, frustrated, even embarrassed by **the direction and possible future** of both of these/"my" organizations, and you well know the interdependency of the two.

The Republican Party: We gun owners celebrated when Donald Trump won the presidency and the Republicans took the Senate to control Congress. What an **opportunity the Republicans are losing!** The White House is in total chaos with **staff** in a "revolving door" situation, the president **wavering** on most everything, a cabinet member having called him a "moron", the stock market wavering as much or more than the president, and even more so since it looks like his **tariffs** have gotten us into a trade war. Maybe he should have read Thomas Friedman's book, The World is Flat. Furthermore, his past **"moral compass"**, which allegedly is "off-the-wall", isn't what we should expect as a **role model** for our youth. His miss-statements of facts are being tallied.

Things aren't going much, if any, better in Congress where the Republicans also seem to be in a divided, chaotic state. Looking at it: After having seven (7) years to prepare a better **health care** plan the Republicans started with nothing but "repeal" and to date, have nothing passable to "replace"; they have been totally **hypocritical** with respect to the **deficit/national debt** when they passed and "hyped" the tax cut bill, along with increased defense spending (not knowing or remembering that one of our generals is supposed to have said, "The national debt is our most serious national security threat". Fortunately they have not yet borrowed the money to build a border wall. One more point: The Republican Congress seems to see no need and/or has insufficient intestinal fortitude to try to **slow down, guide, or censor the president**. Do you still trust him?

The NRA: After the Las Vegas concert and Parkland, FL. school shootings, the **national public climate on gun control** has drastically changed, with significant **political implications**. Polling shows increased demand for gun control legislation by both gun owners and those who do not own guns, and that sentiment will increase if there are more mass tragedies. Among those who do not own guns, the NRA just might be the most hated and misunderstood organization in the country. The NRA needs to **clean up its image** by getting directly involved with all parties to do **all** things that can be done, with high possibilities of some degree of success, that might inconvenience, but not eliminate the rights of law abiding gun owners.

The NRA could use the services of a publicist, a psychologist and a sociologist to assist in "cleaning up its act", and implement a new strategy before it is too late. Arrogantly/defiantly digging in and "fighting" and the status-quo are not leadership strategies to save lives. With a mass of new, young, non-gun owning voters coming on-board in the next few years to support anti-gun older adults, the NRA should be working hard, cooperating with others to **influence Republicans to swiftly pass** the proposals included in the **enclosed paper** described below. That type of action is not only the right thing to do, but also might prove to be a political necessity for the NRA and Republicans. The Republican election losses since the president took office, and those were before the Parkland, FL shooting, should not be underestimated or forgotten.

Wayne, we gun owners need to be organized and united, but the NRA must **join others, lead and compromise** with new and different solutions if the 2nd Amendment and the NRA are to survive in a changing world. A **special example of compromise**: A Sandy Hook victim's mother is on Facebook soliciting petition signatures to limit magazine capacity to ten (10) rounds to give future potential victims **more opportunities to safely run**. It will be **shameful if the NRA does not support** this as outlined in my paper. The NRA has offered little new in recent years, beyond criticizing in-adequate mental health programs and advocating for hardening schools, while people are dying and others are grieving. A less arrogant and defensive NRA would be more caring, empathetic and compassionate in reaching out to save lives while protecting our right to protect ourselves from the "bad guys" who have always been and will always be there.

Two years ago, in preparation for a pro-gun ownership presentation that I made to a group at my church, I wrote seven (7) proposals intended to save lives. That effort has now been expanded to **fifteen (16) proposals** with a considerable amount of background and supporting information; seventeen (17) pages plus a photo graphic are **enclosed for your consideration**. The Proposals **do not include** confiscation or banning guns, government licensing of owners or gun registration. They are alternative options requiring legislation, and some of them include required **direct participation of and interaction with the NRA**. A large amount of time and effort went into the preparation of the paper; therefore, I am asking you to give it your most serious personal attention and consideration. I am also asking that you send me a response to the Proposals as timely as your busy schedule will permit.

The paper has been sent to the PA House Judiciary Committee which will begin hearings on gun safety next week, and it will be sent to my representatives in Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis W. Wade