

## **DESTROYING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS WON'T SOLVE GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEMS OR SOLVE GUN SAFETY ISSUES.**

### **DUE DILIGENCE REQUIRED REGARDING STATISTICAL EVIDENCE**

In 2015, the Florida State Senate heard arguments regarding a proposal to allow concealed weapons to be carried on the campuses of Florida State University. Regarding the evidence that was provided, which compared States with and without a particular gun control measure, after careful due diligence regarding the statistics and what was being compared, the general lack of statistical significance and comparability stood out.

Statistical based evidence comparing one State to another, as a basis for restricting 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment freedoms, will never provide – forgive the pun – a smoking gun. It is near impossible to find two States that match all relevant socioeconomic, criminal and gun-ownership measures that vary in one specific way – control measures implemented within one State and not in another. And I suspect this is true across Minnesota Counties. “Strictly speaking, the state that does not get the new gun control laws should – as the “control” group – get some other superficially-similar intervention. And, ideally, neither the inhabitants nor the researchers should know which state is which (the “double-blind” part). Good luck designing that study!

Moreover, in the absence of such studies, researchers are forced to argue over observational data, which can always be analyzed in a myriad of different ways, unfortunately almost always statistically insignificant. One consideration however popped out in my research. Poverty manifested by a lifetime of government policy that invites dependency on government. In addition, some studies have shown gun control measures have no effect, while others have shown to be more detrimental.

### **REGARDING RESPONSE TIME FOR DEFENSE**

Media reporting which I archived from 2020, just 4 years ago, documents the following e-mail response Craig Paulson of Pedego Electric Bikes of Minneapolis received from Minneapolis Inspector Sean McGinty:

*As far as a long-term plan I don't have one. I have lost 30% of my street officers since the end of May. Budget cuts from COVID-19 and an additional 1.5 million from the council in August we have let go 17 CSO's and canceled a recruit class of 29. A potential Cadet class slated for January of 2021 was also eliminated. It takes about a year to get a police Officer onto the streets with hiring, backgrounds and field training so reinforcements aren't coming anytime soon. We are doing everything we can with what we have. I hate to see great businesses like yours and the rest of your corridor being victimized and feeling unsafe. Please let me know if you have any more questions.*

**The Reality:** If an intruder breaks and enters somebody's home with obvious nefarious intent, the ability to make critical decisions quickly backed by the availability of a means of self-defense is paramount.

Democrat policy has already complicated and exacerbated social problems as the e-mail above attests: "They don't have a long-term plan. Reinforcements are not on the way. How would you feel if you received a message like that from the police?" – Jazz Shaw

In today's political environment, liberals hate discussing issues such as individual responsibility. Instead, criminals are treated as victims of "society." Thus, criminals using guns are not really lawbreakers but, in reality, the true victims. Criminals, we are told, are the true victims of such evils as systemic racism, corporate greed, climate change, and improper allocation of resources among other societal ills.

### **THE SOLUTION: BRING THE OLD NORMAL BACK**

Gun Safety Training starting young goes hand in hand with the teaching of principles and values that promote respect for our laws, the people who enforce those laws, with our leadership and members of our society setting the right examples.

There is no excuse for carelessness and negligence in the handling of firearms. The lesson, always respect them as if loaded – keep away from Children – a parental/guardian responsibility – is paramount. Billboards, workshops, community training sessions would go a long way in this regard versus infringing on inviolable human rights.

### **REGARDING MN-DFL BILLS – INFRINGING 2<sup>ND</sup> AMMENDMENT RIGHTS**

If these bills were truly about crime or focusing on those elements within American society without the requisite respect for the law and training, the focus would be on enforcing laws, holding criminals accountable, and expanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment sanctuaries in every Minnesota county to promote and maintain gun safety training. And the MN-DFL apparently having never done this, speaks volumes about what the issues really are.