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DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1541, H.D. 2

March 14, 2019
2:45 p.m.
Room 229

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1541, H.D. 2, establishes the Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center (HGVPC), within the University of Hawaii, to conduct extensive research on gun-related violence and its prevention. This bill also creates the HGVPC Special Fund (HGVPCSF) that would generate revenues through Legislative appropriations, donations, contributions, and grants; appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds in FY 20 and FY 21 for deposit into the HGVPCSF; and appropriates an unspecified amount from the HGVPCSF in FY 20 and FY 21 for the hiring of three or more full-time equivalent permanent positions.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-52.4, HRS, respectively. Special and revolving funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users

or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue;

3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and

4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to H.B.

No. 1541, H.D. 2, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 2:45 p.m.

By

Denise Eby Konan, PhD
Dean, College of Social Sciences,
Aviam Soifer
Dean, William S. Richardson School of Law

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1541 HD2 – RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify **in support** of HB 1541 HD2. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) supports this bill to create a Hawai'i gun violence prevention center to conduct and administer research on gun violence and policies. The center would analyze and develop strategies to prevent gun violence in Hawai'i and administer grant-making for community gun violence prevention programs.

UHM acknowledges that federal funding for research on gun violence has ended since passage of the Dickey Amendment in 1996 and state and local institutions need to conduct their own essential research, drawing upon the resources of other research and policy centers across the US, while identifying and developing their own research and policy initiatives.

The University recognizes that other universities across the nation are home to similar state-funded research centers, supporting their own communities with interdisciplinary research and analysis of gun-related violence, gun violence prevention, and the effectiveness of existing laws and policies. The State of Hawai'i and its citizens would greatly benefit from this center and UHM - in particular its College of Social Sciences (CSS) - has the means and expertise for this type of multidisciplinary research and grant administration.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has an impressive history of funded research on violence prevention, as well as formal and informal collaborations and partnerships with state and county governments and the non-profit sector. From 2000-2011, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC), funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), conducted community-based research and implemented school-based violence prevention programming on O'ahu. The APIYVPC was housed in the UHM Department of Psychiatry and consisted of multidisciplinary

faculty researchers and students, including several from the College of Social Sciences (CSS).

In 2004, the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) within the CSS, under contract with the Department of Health's EMS and Injury Prevention System Branch, wrote "Ending Violence: A 2004 Status Report on Violence Prevention in Hawai'i". This required extensive data collection and an action-planning process with groups working on preventing all types of violence. SSRI also conducted the evaluation of the suicide prevention gatekeeper training. Most notably, for 15 years, the University conducted gang and delinquency research and evaluation under contract with the Hawai'i Attorney General and the Office of Youth Services. UHM's working relationships with agencies in the Youth Gang Response System produced long-lasting affiliations aimed at reducing violence in Hawai'i and resulted in many valuable reports used by government and non-profit agencies. In 1990, SSRI published "Gun Control: A Youth Issue," a report that aided the legislature and state departments.

The William S. Richardson School of Law has considerable expertise and great interest in vital issues that surround gun violence. Faculty members include, for example, experts in Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Statutory Construction, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Legal History, as well as many elements of public policy that directly pertain to the research envisioned in HB 1541.

Faculty members in the School of Law and the College of Social Sciences often have had fruitful collaborations and we are confident that future multidisciplinary research promises to be productive and significant.

The University's track record and its connection to state, city, and community agencies, and coalitions working on violence prevention is a foundation for working together through the establishment of the violence prevention research center. As in the past, UHM would develop strong working relationships with Hawai'i's departments such as the Attorney General, Health, and Human Services and the county law enforcement agencies. CSS has a number of scholars with experience in the field of violence prevention and is currently in planning to build a larger capacity for research in the fields of crime, violence and the law.

Therefore, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the purpose of this bill to prevent gun violence and save lives by establishing the Hawai'i gun violence prevention center. We welcome further discussions on the development of a center in association with the William S. Richardson School of Law and the College of Social Sciences.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:10:40 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harvey Gerwig	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

The **HAWAII RIFLE ASSOCIATION** is **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to this bill for the following reasons:

1. There is absolutely **NO EVIDENCE** that this sort of study provides any decrease in gun violence anywhere in the Nation. Why would this study be any different? It wouldn't.
2. It is costly to a State that has scarce resources in a declining economy, as evidenced by the most recent Economic Outlook from the State of Hawaii.
3. It proposes to assign the study to **U.H. which is an extremely BIASED organization against the gun rights of Hawaii's Citizens**. If this bill made any good sense at all, which it doesn't, the drafters of the bill would have looked to an UNBIASED organization to perform the study.
4. Please don't waste our resources on unproven, liberal ideology. Simply arrest criminals. That will reduce gun violence.

Thank you,

Harvey Gerwig, President

Hawaii Rifle Association



Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HEARING: Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 2:45pm

RE: HB1541 HD2 Relating to Gun Violence Prevention

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition OPPOSES HB1541 HD2

A gun violence center is a waste of taxpayer's money and is not the solution to Hawaii's problems. It is noted in the bill text that the purpose of the Gun Violence Research Center is that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is prohibited from conducting firearms research. This is wrong. The Centers for Disease Control does publish recent firearms related research therefore funding a research center in Hawaii is not needed. The Dickey's amendment noted in the bill instead says "None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control." (see attachment)

There is also a bias in that this bill doesn't address the positive uses of firearms for self defense. The attached article from Forbes and report sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that guns are commonly used for self defense. This is proven by the fact that Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) is a growing across the nation with 49 states issuing permits with Hawaii as the lone exception. 16 states have Constitutional Carry where no permit is required, and this number is growing each year. A research center not addressing this area for public safety is a major concern on it's neutrality.

We are also concerned about potential bias in the research caused by allowing funding from individuals and organizations who wish to use the research for political reasons and restrictions on civil rights.

It is already known that criminals, many of whom are already prohibited from possessing a gun, are the source of Hawaii's violent crime problems. The money allocated for this research center should be put towards keeping violent offenders in prison, rehabilitation, and enforcement.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition Opposes HB1541 HD2. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake
Director, Hawaii Firearms Coalition
PH. (808) 255-3066
Email: todd@hifico.org

172,340 views | Mar 20, 2018, 07:30am

Any Study Of 'Gun Violence' Should Include How Guns Save Lives



Paul Hsieh Contributor ⓘ

I cover health care and economics from a free-market perspective.

After the Parkland, Florida shootings, some are calling for more government research into “gun violence.”

Currently, the federal government’s Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is restricted by Congress from using tax money to promote gun control (although not from conducting research into gun-related violence). Some legislators want to remove this funding restriction. Separate from the federal government, the state of California has created a “[gun violence research center](#)” and the state of New Jersey is considering establishing a similar program. Similarly, university professors such as David Hemenway of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, have called for more federal funding of gun violence research.

Many gun rights advocates are wary of such research, fearing it will be used to fuel a partisan political agenda. [Dr. Timothy Wheeler](#) of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership has noted that CDC has a track record of anti-gun bias. In the 1990s, one CDC official even stated that his goal was to create a public perception of gun ownership as something “[dirty, deadly – and banned.](#)”

But regardless of whether “gun violence” research is being conducted by the federal government, states, universities, or private organizations, there are three key principles all public health researchers and firearms policy analysts should remember.

The first principle is:

*** Firearms save lives as well take lives.**

If one imagines that guns in civilian hands are used solely as murder weapons, it

80,213 views | Jan 21, 2019, 02:05am

The Four Leadership Personas Of The Fourth Industrial Revolution —Which One Are You?



Punit Renjen Brand Contributor
Deloitte **BRANDVOICE**



Punit Renjen Brand Contributor

Deloitte Global CEO

Punit is in his 31st year with the Deloitte organization and became CEO of Deloitte Global in June 2015. Deloitte operates in 150 countries, with more than 244,000 professionals. Punit is also a member of the Deloitte Global Board of Directors.

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64,920 views | Apr 30, 2018, 08:00am

That Time The CDC Asked About Defensive Gun Uses



Paul Hsieh Contributor ⓘ

I cover health care and economics from a free-market perspective.

Last month, I discussed the need for more robust and intellectually balanced research into gun use in the United States. In particular, I proposed that [“Any Study Of ‘Gun Violence’ Should Include How Guns Save Lives.”](#)

In particular, [a 2013 study](#) ordered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and conducted by The National Academies’ Institute of Medicine and National Research Council reported that, “Defensive use of guns by crime victims is a common occurrence”:

“ Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million, in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008.

Subsequently, I learned of a recent paper by Florida State University professor Gary Kleck, [“What Do CDC’s Surveys Say About the Frequency of Defensive Gun Uses?”](#)

Kleck looked at some previously unpublished results from the CDC surveys conducted in the 1990s and concluded:

“ In 1996, 1997, and 1998, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted large-scale surveys asking about defensive gun use (DGU) in four to six states. Analysis of the raw data allows the estimation of the prevalence of DGU for those areas. Estimates based on CDC’s surveys confirm estimates for the same sets of states based on data from the 1993 National Self-Defense Survey (Kleck and Gertz 1995). Extrapolated to the U.S. as a whole CDC’s survey data imply that defensive uses of guns by crime victims are far more

data. Between 1986 and 2010, the domestic production of firearms increased by 79 percent, firearm exports increased by 11 percent, and firearm imports increased by 305 percent (ATF, 2012). A December 2012 poll found that 43 percent of those surveyed reported having a gun in the home (Gallup, 2013).

Defensive Use of Guns

Defensive use of guns by crime victims is a common occurrence, although the exact number remains disputed (Cook and Ludwig, 1996; Kleck, 2001a). Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million (Kleck, 2001a), in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008 (BJS, 2010). On the other hand, some scholars point to a radically lower estimate of only 108,000 annual defensive uses based on the National Crime Victimization Survey (Cook et al., 1997). The variation in these numbers remains a controversy in the field. The estimate of 3 million defensive uses per year is based on an extrapolation from a small number of responses taken from more than 19 national surveys. The former estimate of 108,000 is difficult to interpret because respondents were not asked specifically about defensive gun use.

A different issue is whether defensive uses of guns, however numerous or rare they may be, are effective in preventing injury to the gun-wielding crime victim. Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual

defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was “used” by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies (Kleck, 1988; Kleck and DeLone, 1993; Southwick, 2000; Tark and Kleck, 2004). Effectiveness of defensive tactics, however, is likely to vary across types of victims, types of offenders, and circumstances of the crime, so further research is needed both to explore these contingencies and to confirm or discount earlier findings.

Even when **defensive** use of guns is effective in averting death or injury for the gun user in cases of crime, it is still possible that keeping a gun in the home or carrying a gun in public—concealed or open carry—may have a different net effect on the rate of injury. For example, if gun ownership raises the risk of suicide, homicide, or the use of weapons by those who invade the homes of gun owners, this could cancel or outweigh the beneficial effects of **defensive** gun use (Kellermann et al., 1992, 1993, 1995). Although some early studies were published that relate to this issue, they were not conclusive, and this is a sufficiently important question that it merits additional, careful exploration.

Firearm-Related Violence as a Public Health Issue

The public health field focuses on problems that are associated with significant levels of morbidity and mortality. The complexity and frequency of firearm-related violence combined with its impact on the health and safety of the nation's residents make it a topic of considerable public health importance and suggest that a public health approach should be incorporated into the strategies used to prevent future harm and injuries. Violence, including firearm-related violence, has been shown to be contagious. Recognizing this, the academic community has suggested that research examine violence much like is done for contagious diseases (IOM, 2013).

In the past, responses to firearm violence typically have been based in the criminal justice system, which is crucial to public safety, but a more comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is necessary to reduce the burden of firearm-related violence on individuals, families, communities, and general society (Kellermann et al., 1991). Public health approaches focus efforts on the prevention of violence by characterizing the scope or magnitude of the problem, evaluating potential risk

and protective factors associated with specific outcomes, and developing and evaluating interventions to affect these risk factors (Satcher, 1995). Topics previously viewed as purely criminal in nature, such as firearm-related violence, require a multidisciplinary approach (Kellermann et al., 1991) because, frequently, health and crime share the same risk and protec-

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 1:57:58 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge	Testifying for Hawaii Hunting Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

We reject the continuing waste of taxpayer money, energy, and resources that are solely being spent for a problem that doesn't exist in Hawaii. Money would be better spent on keeping people in prison or better programs of rehabilitation... Legitimate Hawaii Gun Owners are not the problem. There is more of a problem with legislators focusing on the innocent, rather than the guilty... and our gun owners are amongst the most squeaky clean.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 2:37:56 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Wast of tax payers money. Statistically, Hawaii is not experiencing a problem with gun violence. What we already have in place is working.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:35:46 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mitchell weber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1541.

This "Research Center" is nothing more than a front for far-left anti gun lobbying groups to enact more gun control. Our state does not have money to fund such research so guess who will gladly donate money to UH in order to further push Gun Confiscation, The very same groups that initially whispered this bill into the ears of the sponsoring legislators. This is a blatant conflict of interest, I am quite frankly extremely taken back by the obtuseness of you legislators to not see the big picture here.(that last sentence was in fact written in jest, I know very well that you all are complicit in the outcome of this travesty of a bill, and agregious abuse of my constitutional rights!)

The fact that you refuse to study the positive effects of private citizens protecting themselves from criminals with firearms is proof of my rant above. You have no interest in furthering public safety for your citizens. This is nothing more than another way to enforce your goal of a fully totalitarian state!

I'm am writing this statement on oppositon on Monday March 11, earlier today in Connecticut an anti gun advocate was removed from a hearing for violating the gun-free policy of the government building. He was told earlier in the day that he could not bring his prop(a lower receiver) into the hearing so he then had a anti gun police chief circumvent security protocols and sneak the receiver in for him. This did nothing but prove the point of every gun rights advocate. GUN LAWS WILL NOT PREVENT A CRIMINAL DETERMINATED TO BREAK THE LAW!

Recent surveys conducted on actual prisoners came to the determination that firearms ownership prevents roughly 3,600 rapes a day or 1.3 million rapes a year. Will this research center devote any of its resources to study that fact?....I think not!

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:41:08 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Hampton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

For your consideration,

It really isn't possible to convince someone that has decided to break ALL the laws not to do so with a firearm.

Think for just a moment,

Murder is ILLEGAL

Attempted murder is ILLEGAL

Discharging a firearm within the city limits is ILLEGAL

Carrying a firearm without a permit is ILLEGAL

Transporting a firearm to anywhere but the range, an FFL, or your home is ILLEGAL

Transporting a loaded firearm is ILLEGAL

If these people are willing to break all these laws, they will break the law to GET a gun.

You're wasting your time and our money. Spend more time keeping criminals off the streets and in prison. They're the ones breaking the laws, not legal firearm owners.

Aloha,

Ed Hampton

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:46:22 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Cummings	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure. It is a waste of taxpayer resources as such resources are already available at numerous sources, both public and private. Additionally, having an entity of the State conduct such resources may produce "one sided" results due to political bias.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:06:00 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Arakawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. There have already been studies that show that HI does not have a gun violence problem. Spend our limited tax dollars wisely.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 5:53:16 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert McCarthy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This is a blatant waste of taxpayer money for political gain..

it appears to be an attempt to create the appearance of a problem that is non-existent in Hawaii.

There is no "gun violence" problem in our state, creating something to research something that does not exist is about as blatant a waste of money and political stunt as we have seen in some time.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:33:27 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Quentin Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1541 HD2.

This is a waste of even more taxpayer dollars to allegedly combat a non-existent and irrelevant issue in Hawai'i, and any educated individual can see this program is not really about public safety, but rather just another tool that will likely be utilized to further degrade the constitutional rights of the citizens of Hawai'i on no factual grounds.

If public safety is truly the focus of this legislature, those claiming to be our representatives would be focusing on more relevant issues that are actually putting the lives of their constituents at risk, such as the crumbling infrastructure that apparently has no funds to be properly dealt with or managed. We can't properly fund infrastructure upgrades/improvements and management, but we can somehow fund a center for gun violence? This Makes absolutely no sense and is a disservice to the citizens of Hawai'i through the allocation of taxpayer monies that should be spent on real problems to a nonsensical program with no legitimate or logical purpose.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:56:35 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wayne berdon	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It's already been shown time and time again in the news in the news papers that the university of Hawaii at manoa is terrible bias on a lot of subjects including infringing on gun owners rights just based on previous statements made by students and faculty during protest against lawful gun owners. I'm giving the power to UH manoa to dictate the actions and statistics on guns and their uses would not result in an unbiased result and would leave every thing they say a open door to lawsuits. I ask you vote this bill down.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 10:09:14 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:30:37 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendon Heal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure, as gun violence is a non-issue in Hawaii, except for that of criminals. There is no need for the taxpayer to fund research on ways to deprive citizens of their rights.

Seems there is a common thread in this State, of representatives and senators ignoring the testimony and will of their constituents on many many issues. This need to stop immediately.

I would like to mention and remind you that you take an oath to uphold the constitution of the United States and the State of Hawaii. Your first responsibility is representation of the people. You are our employees, NOT our rulers.

You should monitor public input here and in social media, the publics voice is loud and clear.

I am a voter and I am not being represented.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:47:48 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Berg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii has a lot of problems. We have a drug problem, a property crime problem, a homelessness problem, an education problem, a traffic problem, and an infrastructure problem. What we do NOT have is a gun problem. Rather than wasting our limited tax dollars subsidizing a study with predetermined outcomes please take those resources and start chipping away at the real causes of human misery here in the islands.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:55:19 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Berky	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposal is a waste of taxpayer money. Sufficient research has already been completed at the state and federal level. The vast majority of gun violence is committed by criminals with illegal firearms. I strongly oppose this measure.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 10:21:11 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Creeland Burrows	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii has had the lowest “gun” crime in America I do not feel misappropriation of tax payer money into gun crime prevention is necessary. Educating people on strong family values will prevent more crime in general.

Tgank you

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:32:21 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Kacatin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE this measure based off the fact there is no provision to study the POSITIVES of lawful firearm ownership in our community for the lawful purposes of self defense, sport shooting, and hunting. The inherit BIAS in this measure to study "gun" violence clearly is seeking a solution to a problem that doesn't exist in Hawaii based off a 2018 study requested by State Senator Clarence Nishihara.

Furthermore, the potential for skewed conclusions stems from the fact that 3rd party special interest groups with a complete anti-gun agenda will be allowed to financially contribute to this proposed committee.

The requested funds to fund this "project" to study a non-problematic issue in Hawaii should be scrutinized considering the endless issues at the University of Hawaii at Manoa with regards to facility maintenance and overall funding issues.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:06:09 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Carreira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I OPPOSE HB1541. Gun violence in Hawaii is not a unique occurrence. Our criminals are not unique, the crime is not unique. There are countless studies done nationwide that already have covered this topic. It is my opinion that you can remove "Gun" from the study as it is simply a tool, a means to do harm. You could replace "gun" with knife, fists, blunt instruments, vehicles....etc. The key word is "violence". I can save you the funds you are planning to put towards this measure and tell you that the restrictive gun laws in Hawaii have little effect on gun violence as criminals by their very nature DO NOT FOLLOW LAWS. Last I checked there were already laws in place against acts of violence towards other people.

Hawaii does not have a "gun violence problem". Throwing money at a problem that doesn't exist removes funds from actual issues such as homelessness, water rights and the opioid epidemic. Do not waste public funds re-hashing what we already know from COUNTLESS independent studies.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:22:56 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

the legislature, JUST LAST YEAR, funded a study on gun violence

the result of the study was HAWAII DOES NOT HAVE A GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEM!

yet the legislature wants to WASTE more money and time in an effort to come up with false "proof" that more "common sense gun legislation" is needed

please spend time and money on THE REAL PROBLEMS IN HAWAII, like the cost of living, homelessness, mental health issues, traffic, illegal drugs... i could go on listing things forever.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:31:15 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Kaku	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:30:30 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kainoa Kaku	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:32:30 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Kaku	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:35:21 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Rice	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1541. This is just another waste of money that at best will not come up with any so called solutions to gun violence, and at worse skew data to support anti gun legislation.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:47:23 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa L Nakama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Teresa L. Nakama a registered voter in the State of Hawaii hereby strongly oppose HB1541 HD2. I am in opposition when it comes to spending our hard earn tax dollars for specific studies that do not benefit 100% of educating every student communities in our colleges. This bill only targets a specific group and not the greater education system. This is only to fund a specific special group and that to me is a waste of our hard earned taxpayers money. There are already studies that have been done throughout the USA and in colleges, there is no need for another repetitive study to be done.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa L. Nakama

Registered Voter



Institute for Rational and Evidence-Based Legislation

P. O. Box 41

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March 12, 2019

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Re: HB1541, HD2

To be heard: Thursday, March 14, 2019

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members,

Please vote NO on HB1541.

Please don't waste one cent of taxpayer money on this sure-to-be propaganda mill. There is no place for such an entity at any educational institution, let alone one labeled as "higher". This "center" will be anything but "educational", unless one is looking to be educated in the ways of fraudulent advocacy studies posing as "research". There is not even the pretension here to establish any guidelines, much less rules, that would begin to assure anything resembling "objectivity". As with other such "research centers" aimed at "gun violence" at other state sponsored "research centers" established at state universities, we see one, and only one result: firearms must be further restricted from access by ordinary law-abiding citizens. When people with a particular view exclude the study of the "positive" uses of firearms, for recreation, sport, etc., but most importantly when weighing public risk/benefit, "defensive gun uses" (DGUs) wherein a lawfully armed citizen stops or lessens the actions of a criminal who is attempting to prey upon them, there can only be one conclusion reached: guns are bad, therefore no one should have them (except, of course, the agents of the state who will be enforcing the prohibitions).

I've outlined below at least one way to restrict the bias of only awarding grants to those "researchers" who will provide the sought after "guns must be further restricted" conclusions: award half the research grants to people who have come to different conclusions about the risk/benefit ratio. The previous committees did not see fit to amend the bill to include such a balancing amendment. At the very least, the bill should be amended to guarantee that any and all research include all the "positive"/public-safety-enhancing uses of guns in the studies. Without such a restriction and balancing on the rewarding of funds the conclusions are already known, and they have nothing to do with genuine research or education.

Not only is some entity designated as the "Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center" superfluous and unnecessary, the 10 authors of this bill engage in either disingenuous misleading statements of fact and statistics, or to put it more accurately, outright lies and deceptions that are merely parroting the deceptive talking points of the national anti-civil-rights organizations ("Giffords", Bloomberg-funded Anytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action, the Brady Center [now "Brady"], Violence Policy

Center, etc.) dedicated to further infringing the civil rights of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves from criminal predation via the use of firearms.

Does that sound harsh? It's not, it's actually being kind, as what the authors have done is really a case of fraud. While an entire book would be required to detail each and every lie and fraudulent claim that appears in the rationale/justification prelude to the bill language itself, I will have to settle here for merely outlining just a few of the attempts to deceive.

First, and not without great significance, is the fact that “gun violence” is nothing more than a propaganda term, designed to deceive the uninformed. All of the claimed “statistics” the authors of this bill list as justifications are fabricated upon deliberate statistical manipulations, including confounding and conflating highly dissimilar events.

Let me give you an example of “gun violence” and how it has been “computed” by the authors of this bill to supposedly justify taxpayers of Hawaii spending money to generate “evidence” to further curtail their rights. Suppose a father in one part of his home, armed with a handgun in a holster, hears what he considers an unusual noise coming from another distant part of the house. He goes to investigate and determines that the sound is coming from the bedroom of his 10 and 7-year-old daughters. He opens the closed door of the room to see his 10-year-old daughter bound, gagged, raped, and murdered by knife wounds, while his 7-year-old daughter, also bound and gagged lies next to her on the bed, with a large man standing over her, still holding a knife. The father yells “Stop!”, at which point the man turns toward the 7-year-old girl and brings the knife up as if to attack her, the father then fires the gun at the rapist murderer and stops the attack, killing him and saving his second daughter.

Now, is that “gun violence” that needs “preventing” according to the authors of this bill? They seem to think so. It certainly is violence that included the use of a firearm. Do we want to prevent such an instance of “gun violence”? We don't really know for sure how the authors of the bill view this because the justifications they give and sources they cite for such definitions are not completely clear. But it is likely that such an event, AND ALL INSTANCES OF SELF DEFENSE WITH FIREARMS, are counted by them to be instances of “gun violence”, which is really simply a pejorative term that identifies all firearm use as “violence” that needs to be “prevented”, thus there are no qualifications nor exceptions for justified homicide nor any other instance of justifiable self-defense. Why would anyone want to “prevent” such “gun violence” that saves lives (as happens millions of time per year as reported by the CDC which the authors of this bill falsely claim have been prohibited from doing precisely the research they have done)? What could that motive possibly be? Why wouldn't they use more accurate terms such as “Hawaii Center to Prevent Criminal Uses of Firearms and Suicide Prevention”? (Note also that the authors acknowledge that 80% of suicides are NOT committed with firearms, yet we see no mention of a “Hawaii Rope Violence Prevention Center” or a “Hawaii Knife Violence Prevention Center” or a “Hawaii Tall Building Violence Prevention Center” or a “Hawaii Sleeping Pill Violence Prevention Center”.) Why focus on the means of a mere 20% of “gun violence deaths”? It illustrates that conflating the majority of overall “gun deaths”, which are by far suicides (over 60%) compared to homicides, with “gun violence” is absurd and nothing more than deceptive propaganda methodology, as the same people have done by inventing the term “assault weapons” to attempt to confuse the uninformed that those are either fully automatic weapons or somehow more “dangerous” than other semi-automatic firearms having identical ballistic capabilities but merely having different cosmetic features. All the best quality studies show that there is a “substitution effect” wherein if one means of suicide is made more difficult to achieve, those determined to kill themselves simply resort to other means, and there is NO resulting decline in overall suicide. (Japan has a rate of suicide nearly 40% greater than the United States, and South Korea more than 50% greater, and virtually no ordinary citizen in either of those countries has access to firearms, and the “substitution effect” has proven true

as those countries have taken means to attempt to restrict certain suicide methods).

The irony is that although the authors of the bill falsely claim that “Congress passed the Dickey Amendment, with a provision which prevents the use of federal money for gun violence research and prevention”, in fact **the CDC itself has produced the research** (“PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENCE”), ordered by Obama in 2013 using his “pen and phone”, which states that the number of instances of self-defense using firearms (aka according to the authors of this bill “gun violence”) far exceeds (by 1.5 to 8 TIMES) the number of criminal uses of firearms in the commission of crimes. I ask again, why would people want to label self-defense with firearms, wherein people save their own lives and/or the lives of their family members or neighbors or even strangers, as a “danger to public safety”? Yet that's exactly what the authors of this bill assert. All “gun violence” must be “prevented”. Don't believe me? Just read the sources of the statistics they cite and decide for yourself.

To make their preposterous assumptions even more absurd, their “cost” of “gun violence” (“\$229,000,000,000 in 2012”) **only includes the “negative” consequences of firearm use**, not the entire other side of the equation, the economic savings as a consequence of all the lives saved via self-defense uses of firearms, which are far more numerous than the deaths and injuries to innocent people. What kind of math analysis is that? See Dean Weingarten's slightly expanded essay on this fact below. This is analogous to analyzing how many people die and/or are injured in hospitals, and ignoring how many are saved and cured, then performing an economic analysis of all the lives lost and limited by injury and concluding that “hospital death and injury” must be “prevented” due to the obvious “public safety” hazard, and the best and most certain form of prevention is elimination. No one would take such an analysis seriously re hospitals (and “doctor and nurse violence”), yet that is exactly what the authors of this bill would have us believe re firearms. Why would they make such an obviously absurd claim? Are we supposed to believe that the consequences to the public of the justified self-defense homicide of the rapist murderer in the above example is that we have to subtract the rapist murderer's lost life earnings and paid taxes that he will no longer be able to pay as a debit to the public well-being? That's what the authors of this bill would have us believe. Look up the source of their claim re “the economic cost of gun violence was estimated at \$229,000,000,000 in 2012” claim. There is not a single instance counted on the positive side of the ledger for all the people who are still alive and uninjured due to their self-defense use of a firearm against criminals, and those people outnumber the criminal uses/costs by 1.5 to 8 TIMES. The authors expect us to believe their one-sided analysis? Why the deception?

Does the Dickey amendment do what the authors claim (“a provision which **prevents the use of federal money for gun violence research and prevention**”)? Another blatant lie. All we have to do is 1. read the actual Dickey amendment, and 2. note all the “gun violence” research the CDC has done since the Dickey amendment was enacted. Both of those facts make the claim of the authors of this bill to be “mistaken” at best. Here's the actual quote on the restriction imposed by the Dickey amendment in 1996: the **Dickey Amendment** is a provision first inserted as a rider into the 1996 federal government omnibus spending bill which mandated that “none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **may be used to advocate or promote gun control**”.

NOT **may** not be used to research any firearms related events, but only against “**advocate or promote gun control**”. That's as clear as can be. The authors of this bill are liars, or ignorant.

You might ask, well why would Dickey introduce such a bill? Surely the CDC would only be

producing pure research and not using public money to to “advocate or promote gun control”. You'd be wrong:

In a 1994 New York Times piece, titled “New Tactics Urged in Fight Against Crime,” you’ll find Mark Rosenberg” — then **director at the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which oversaw the “gun violence” research** — urging America “to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes ... It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol — cool, sexy, macho. Now it is dirty, deadly — and **banned.**”

It was Congress that did this because of the CDC's strong political stance against guns that was present in their work. This is due in part to, “[the] **official goal of the CDC’s parent agency, the U.S. Public Health Service, had been “...to reduce the number of handguns in private ownership”**, starting with a 25% reduction by the turn of the century.”

“We’re going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths. We’re doing the most we can do, given the political realities.” - P.W. O’Carroll, **Acting Section Head of Division of Injury Control, CDC**, quoted in Marsha F. Goldsmith, “Epidemiologists Aim at New Target: Health Risk of Handgun Proliferation,” *Journal of the American Medical Association* vol. 261 no. 5, February 3, 1989, pp. 675-76.

There are more examples of the CDC leaders “advocating and promoting gun control” without any evidence, but instead obviously indicating that they intended to make up (more) evidence. Thus the Dickey amendment, which only prohibited such advocacy. Why would we believe that any Hawaii-based research would be any different, given the makeup and obvious biases of the people who, like the authors of this legislation, would be making the decisions as to who would get funding?

In 1996, 1997, and 1998 the CDC conducted research into the number of times firearms were used for self-defense in the United States. Each year the research yielded approximately the same results, around 2,000,000 (two million) individual cases of self-defense uses of firearms PER YEAR. These surveys were conducted AFTER the Dickey amendment was passed in 1996 and effective in the years of those studies. Those studies confirmed the number of defensive firearm uses as published in peer-reviewed journals by criminology professors Gary Kleck and Mark Gertz earlier. However, in some extremely peculiar and odd happenstance, the CDC did NOT publish nor ever make public that they had conducted this research, much less reveal the results. It was only in the past couple of years that this research confirming the Kleck and Gertz research was “accidentally” found by someone going through old stored data files at the CDC.

How could the CDC have conducted this research on firearm related violence in 1997, and 1998 if they were prohibited from doing so as of 1996 as the authors of this bill claim? How did the CDC produce Obama's 2013 CDC Report, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence"? How did the CDC produce the two following reports if they were banned from doing so? Please note that here the academics (over two dozen) who were involved in the creation of this CDC report, eschewed the use of the term “gun violence” for the slightly more accurate “firearm-related violence”, and they obviously included the beneficial aspects of firearm use, especially in the millions of annual cases of self-defense.

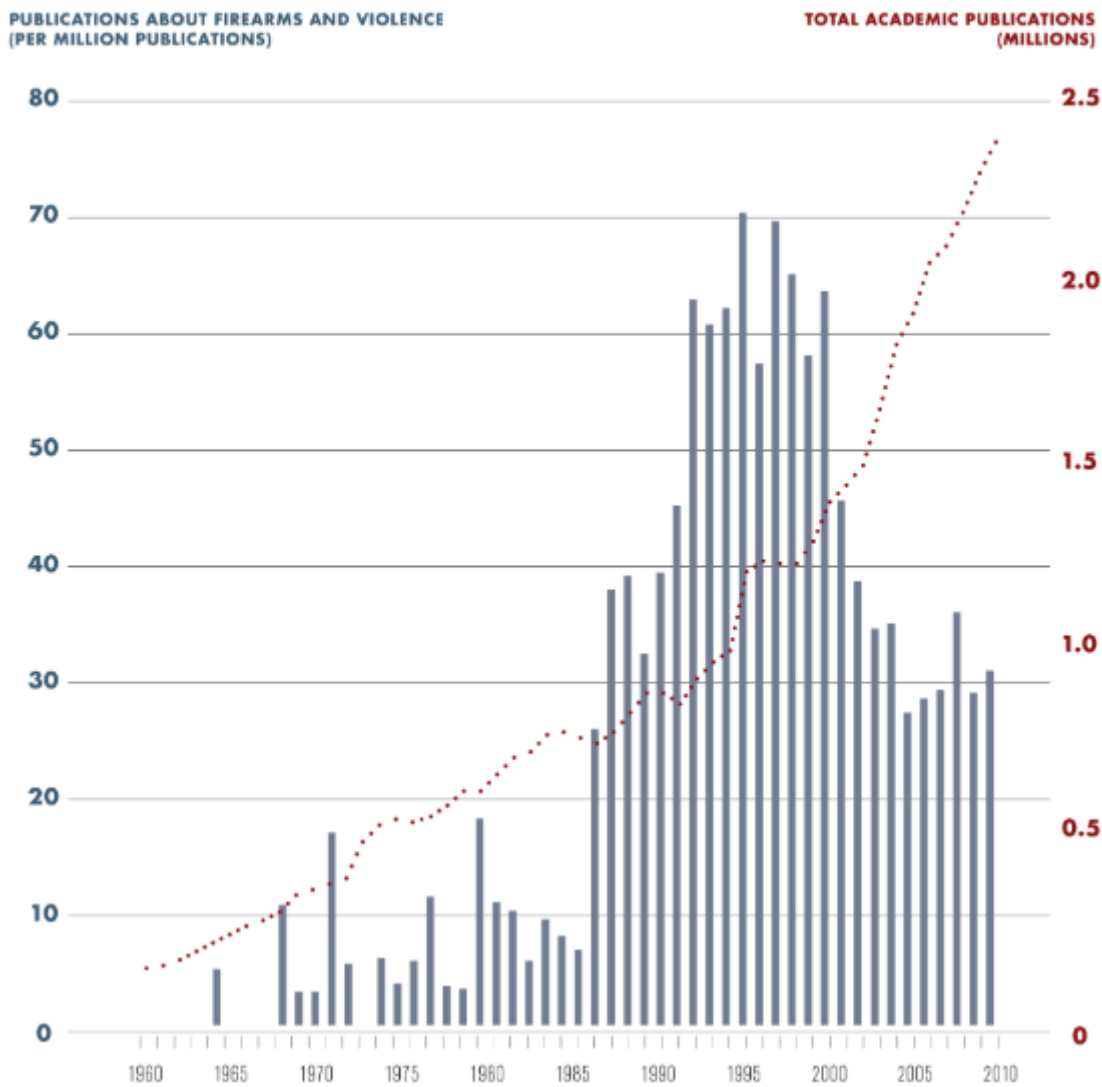
CDC Report, "Firearm Homicides and Suicides in Major Metropolitan Areas — United States, 2006–2007 and 2009–2010".

CDC Report, "Elevated Rates of Urban Firearm Violence and Opportunities for Prevention—

Wilmington, Delaware Final Report".

The cases of other state funded “gun violence research centers” has produced nothing but “advocacy study” results, because they only grant funds to people who they already know will produce the results they want to see: “guns are bad”. Certainly from the justifications offered by the authors of this bill, it's clear that they have no interest in actual facts, but only in producing more deceptive propaganda that influence the uninformed to side with their agenda of further infringing law-abiding citizens' civil rights.

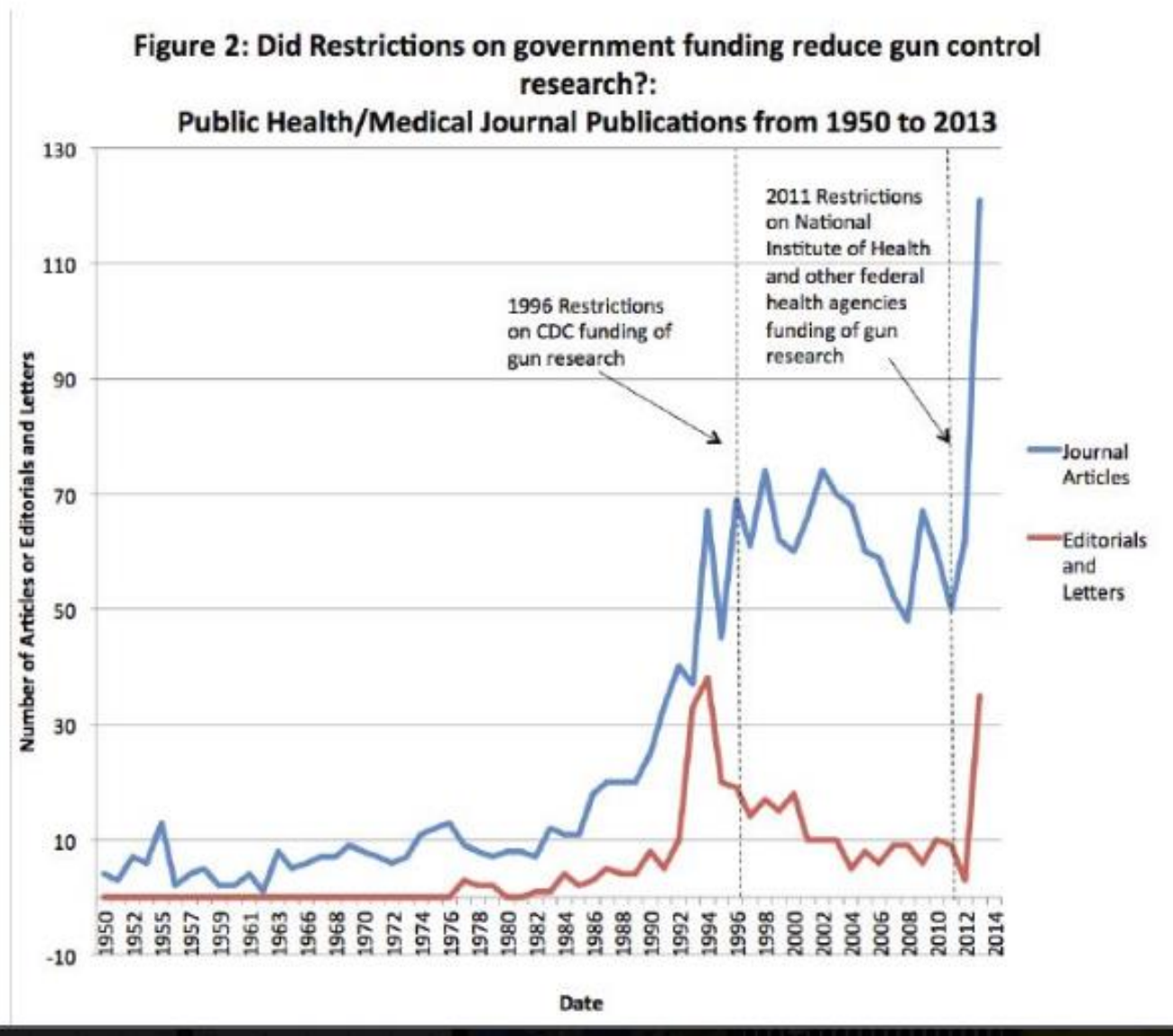
Here's a literally graphic example of the lies and distortions people such as the authors of this bill present in an attempt to deviously claim that research has decreased, when in fact it has actually increased. Here is the graph they present:



A person casually looking at the graph might easily assume that the vertical bars represent the number of research articles published, which looks as if it has decreased, and not pay much attention to the dotted line, which represents “total academic publications”. The bars do NOT show the actual number of published articles, but the number of publications **per million overall research publications** in all fields. Looking only at the vertical bars one gets the impression that the number of articles has

decreased. In fact the opposite is true, the number of published articles and editorial both have increased since the falsely-claimed supposed restriction on “gun violence research”. In order to determine that from the above graph, one has to MULTIPLY the number of articles per million (the left number) by the total number of publications (the right vertical numbers). Thus though the graph gives an impression of 31 articles being published in 2010, a significant decrease since the shown high point of 71 in 1996. However, if one then does the necessary multiplication of that number TIMES the “total academic publications to get the real number of actual publications one discovers that the actual 2010 number is 71 articles... the exact same number as in 1996 before the funding was supposedly cut for such research. Now, why would someone make such a deceptive looking graph, when the truth would be so much clearer if it just showed that actual number of articles published? Here's why:

Yet, there was no drop in research. Indeed, the number of firearms journal articles actually generally rose after 1996 (Figure 2). Soaring from 69 to 121. The firearm articles just didn't rise as quickly since 1996 as 140 percent increase in all medical journal articles.



Because the actual number of articles published, when graphed in a simple straight-forward manner

makes obvious the lie that the Dickey Amendment drastically cut research, because it didn't reduce the number of research articles published. Also note that the first (deceptive) graph conveniently ends at the year 2010, because research greatly accelerated in 2011 due to Bloomberg financing and creating a whole medical think tank devoted to publishing anti-firearm "advocacy research". Why do these people need to lie?

Despite the overwhelming evidence that the creation of HB1541 is unnecessary and would be biased to the point of absurdity, and merely duplicative of already existing advocacy "research", you might want to pass this bill anyway, for reasons one could only speculate about. If so, I urge you to **amend** it along the lines of the following concept in order to assure "objectivity" in the allotment of funding so as to not predispose the results of the supposed "research":

The funds granted for any research shall be allocated with one half of the total going to researchers who in the past 10 years have predominantly produced studies concluding that stricter gun control enhances public safety, and one half of the total funds going to researchers who in the past 10 years have predominantly produced studies concluding that stricter gun control does not enhance public safety. The evaluation and determination of whether the 10 year period of studies falls into which category will be accomplished via out-of-state independent individuals having no connection to either UH nor any firearms-related organizations of any viewpoint, and having the expertise necessary to evaluate said studies in the manner described as to their conclusions. The independent evaluators will read all the studies submitted "blind", that is, there will be no identifying names or other indications of who produced the studies, and only independent evaluators will be selected who are not familiar with the entire field of firearms research so that they would not be able to identify the authors affiliations due to general familiarity with the field of study.

The claims by the authors of this bill are intellectually dishonest at best, possibly ignorant, and possibly blatant lies. We aren't privy to the knowledge level or motivations of the authors, but here is no evidence to support their claims. This bill is an attempt to establish a taxpayer-funded center to produce more biased "advocacy research" wherein "researchers" create study parameters (like discounting all self-defense uses of firearms) that will influence the uniform public opinion with deceptive headlines that are nothing more than propaganda talking points, and thus does not merit support from taxpayers.

Vote NO on HB1541.

Thank you,
George Pace

I here provide just a few of the many explanations for and refutations of the deliberately deceptive claims provided by the authors of this bill to attempt to justify what cannot be justified on a factual basis.

I have not included a copy of the 128 page CDC produced report order by Obama in 2013 as mentioned above, PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENCE, but it is available at:

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18319/priorities-for-research-to-reduce-the-threat-of-firearm-related-violence>

“Gun Violence” is a Propaganda Metric

By Dean Weingarten

The label “gun violence” has become epidemic in the debate about firearms law and the second amendment. “Gun Violence” is a propaganda metric designed to win the debate in public discourse about the second amendment. It accomplishes this by defining the terms in a way favorable to gun prohibition efforts. Here is an example to illustrate the technique, using hospitals.

No one favors people dying in hospitals. Why would anyone want someone to die in a hospital? Therefore, we can create a legislative solution to hospital deaths. We can prevent nearly all hospital deaths with a simple law. All we need to do is to outlaw hospitals. Then people will not die in hospitals, and we will have virtually eliminated hospital deaths!

Of course, the overall death rate will now rise because the usefulness of hospitals will have been outlawed along with hospital deaths.

This is the construct of the term “gun violence”. When you lump all violence in which a gun is used into one category and define reducing that number as a positive good, in and of itself, you necessarily discard or negate anything positive that results from “gun violence”, and ignore violence that results from the substitution of other methods. That is the semantic trick that is being employed in this instance.

To avoid this trap, researchers need to look at **all unjustified violence** to see if policies that reduce “gun violence” reduce overall unjustified violence. If substitution of other methods increased the level of overall unjustified violence, or if no significant change in the level of unjustified violence occurs, then the policy had no positive effect. Ideally, but far more difficult, the research should be over sufficient time to take into account long term effects. That is the method that John Lott and other researchers used when they found that more guns resulted in less crime.

I use the term unjustified violence because violence itself is neutral, like gravity. Violence can be used for good or evil. If violence is used to defend the innocent or to protect society, it can most certainly be good. If violence is used for evil purposes, it can be evil.

Medically, this is similar to testing a new drug to prevent strokes, but ignoring the number of people who are given the drug who are dying of heart attacks. Doctors, who would never condone giving a drug that caused as many or more deaths as it prevented, seem to have no qualms about prescribing “gun control” without considering the lethal side effects of such measures.

Many papers have been written that measure the propaganda metric “gun violence” or often “gun deaths”. When you see that metric in a paper, it shows that the authors are engaged in either academic fraud or academic malpractice. Either the authors did not consider the possibilities of positive uses of guns or the substitution of other methods, or they are making a political statement that death by gunshot is more wrong than death by knife, bomb, arson, blunt object, or beating by hands and feet. If they did not consider positive uses of guns or substitution of methods, their work can be discarded as fatally flawed. If they are making a political statement, then the work is political advocacy, not academic study.

If as many or more people die by murder and suicide after a gun ban as before the ban, all other factors being equal, then the ban has not had a positive effect. Of course, serious research needs to look at trends, multiple regression analysis, and numerous other factors, because “all other factors being equal”

is a very rare condition in the real world. There are many ways to commit academic fraud and to lie with statistics.

It is clear that researchers who only measure “gun violence” or “gun deaths” are pushing propaganda, not serious research into ways to reduce the unjustified death rate.

<https://www.ammoland.com/2014/03/gun-violence-is-a-propaganda-metric/#axzz5eLEVfUiM>

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Any Study Of 'Gun Violence' Should Include How Guns Save Lives

Paul Hsieh, M.D.

After the Parkland, Florida shootings, some are calling for more government research into “gun violence.”

Currently, the federal government’s Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is restricted by Congress from using tax money to promote gun control (although not from conducting research into gun-related violence). Some legislators want to remove this funding restriction. Separate from the federal government, the state of California has created a “[gun violence research center](#)” and the state of New Jersey is considering establishing a similar program. Similarly, university professors such as David Hemenway of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, have called for more federal funding of gun violence research.

Many gun rights advocates are wary of such research, fearing it will be used to fuel a partisan political agenda. [Dr. Timothy Wheeler](#) of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership has noted that CDC has a track record of anti-gun bias. In the 1990s, one CDC official even stated that his goal was to create a public perception of gun ownership as something “[dirty, deadly — and banned.](#)”

But regardless of whether “gun violence” research is being conducted by the federal government, states, universities, or private organizations, there are three key principles all public health researchers and firearms policy analysts should remember.

The first principle is:

⑩ Firearms save lives as well take lives.

If one imagines that guns in civilian hands are used solely as murder weapons, it makes sense to ban or strictly regulate them.

But millions of Americans [legally carry a firearm every day](#), and most cite self-defense as their primary reason. The overwhelming majority of the time, those guns are never drawn in anger. But innocent civilians can and do sometimes use their guns in self-defense. Any discussion of firearms policy must acknowledge the lives saved by legal use of guns as well as the lives lost by criminal use.

The numbers of defensive gun uses (DGUs) each year is controversial. But [one study](#) ordered by the

CDC and conducted by The National Academies' Institute of Medicine and National Research Council reported that, "Defensive use of guns by crime victims is a common occurrence":

Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million, in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008.

[Another study](#) estimates there are 1,029,615 DGUs per year "for self-protection or for the protection of property at home, work, or elsewhere" excluding "military service, police work, or work as a security guard," (within the range of the National Academies' paper), yielding an estimate of 162,000 cases per year where someone "almost certainly would have been killed" if they "had not used a gun for protection."

(In comparison, there were [11,208 homicide deaths by firearm in the US in 2012](#). There were a total of 33,636 deaths due to "injury by firearms," of which the majority were suicides, 21,175.)

A second key principle in judging gun violence research:

- ⑩ **The value of firearms in the hands of law-abiding citizens should be measured in terms of lives saved or crimes prevented, not criminals killed.**

As an example of the latter type of analysis, one recent *Washington Post* story reported that, "[For every criminal killed in self-defense, 34 innocent people die](#)":

In 2012, there were 8,855 criminal gun homicides in the FBI's homicide database, but only 258 gun killings by private citizens that were deemed justifiable, which the FBI defines as "the killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen." That works out to one justifiable gun death for every 34 unjustifiable gun deaths.

However, this comparison can be misleading. An armed civilian does not have to kill the criminal in order to save an innocent life. As the National Research Council notes, "[E]ffective defensive gun use need not ever lead the perpetrator to be wounded or killed. Rather, to assess the benefits of self-defense, one needs to measure crime and injury averted. The particular outcome of an offender is of little relevance."

We don't judge whether the police are doing a good job by the numbers of criminals they kill each year, but rather by how well they stop crime. The same should be true in judging the effectiveness of civilian DGUs.

The exact number of DGUs is not precisely known. There are reasons to think the actual number may be higher or lower than the figures cited. For example, some respondents to surveys may consciously or unconsciously exaggerate the degree of peril they were in, which could lead to an overestimate of DGUs.

On the other hand, gun policy researcher Brian Doherty explains how reported numbers could also be an underestimate. Just as many sexual assault victims don't report those crimes to the authorities, many law-abiding people who successfully use a gun to deter a crime without firing a shot may similarly [choose to avoid reporting these incidents](#) to the police:

[Y]our possession or use of the weapon might be a matter of greater concern to the cops

than whatever the intruder or criminal you were repelling was up to. They'll doubtless never lay hands on him; you are right there, for any investigation and harassment the cops might want to call forth. Many gun owners or gun users might see little good and much possible bad arising from calling the cops after a DGU incident, and thus many or even most would never make a police blotter, never make a newspaper.

It's relatively easy to measure the number of lives *lost* due to criminal gun violence. It's harder to measure the number of lives *saved* by legal defensive gun use. Murders that didn't happen don't show up on crime statistics. This is just another example of Bastiat's classic principle of "the seen vs. the unseen."

Finally, a third principle to remember in analyzing public health gun violence research:

⑩ **The right to self-defense does not depend on statistics and numbers.**

[Doherty](#) makes an important point about the ultimate relevance of any such research studies: "However large the number of DGUs, or how small; and however large the number of accidents or tragedies caused by guns, or how small, the right and ability to choose for yourself how to defend yourself and your family — at home or away from it — remains, and that numerical debate should have no particular bearing on it."

One of my friends had to use his legal concealed handgun to protect himself when attacked by two knife-wielding criminals. I've written about his story [here](https://pjmedia.com/blog/carrying-a-gun-saved-my-life-meet-ryan-moore/). (<https://pjmedia.com/blog/carrying-a-gun-saved-my-life-meet-ryan-moore/>)

For those who wonder whether AR-15-style rifles have a legitimate self-defense use, took a look at this story where someone used an AR-15 to protect himself during a home invasion against 3 black-clad intruders, and another story where a man used his AR-15 to stop a knife attack against others.

It is our inalienable right to self-defense that makes me a proud supporter of responsible gun ownership and of the Second Amendment. Guns can be used for good as well as evil purposes.

We would consider it irresponsible for a public health researcher to study only the negative effects of, say, caffeine consumption without also considering the positive effects. If public health researchers wish to have credibility with the millions of gun rights supporters such as myself, they should endeavour to quantify the very real benefits of legal gun ownership in addition to the genuine harms caused by illegal gun use. Studies that discuss only the latter without the former are incomplete at best — and dishonest at worst.

I support good public policy based on objective research, informed by a proper understanding of individual rights — including the right to self-defense. If we're going to engage in gun violence research, let's do it right — by recognizing both the positive and negative aspects of civilian firearm ownership.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/paulhsieh/2018/03/20/any-study-of-gun-violence-should-include-how-guns-save-lives/#2e54e55c5edc>

That Time The CDC Asked About Defensive Gun Uses

Paul Hsieh, M.D.

Last month, I discussed the need for more robust and intellectually balanced research into gun use in the United States. In particular, I proposed that [“Any Study Of ‘Gun Violence’ Should Include How Guns Save Lives.”](#)

In particular, [a 2013 study](#) ordered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and conducted by The National Academies’ Institute of Medicine and National Research Council reported that, “Defensive use of guns by crime victims is a common occurrence”:

Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million, in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008.

Subsequently, I learned of a recent paper by Florida State University professor Gary Kleck, [“What Do CDC’s Surveys Say About the Frequency of Defensive Gun Uses?”](#)

Kleck looked at some previously unpublished results from the CDC surveys conducted in the 1990s and concluded:

In 1996, 1997, and 1998, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted large-scale surveys asking about defensive gun use (DGU) in four to six states. Analysis of the raw data allows the estimation of the prevalence of DGU for those areas. Estimates based on CDC’s surveys confirm estimates for the same sets of states based on data from the 1993 National Self-Defense Survey (Kleck and Gertz 1995). Extrapolated to the U.S. as a whole CDC’s survey data imply that defensive uses of guns by crime victims are far more common than offensive uses by criminals. CDC has never reported these results.

Subsequently, Kleck removed this version of the paper, although a copy of the original [can be found here](#). As reported by *Reason* editor [Brian Doherty](#):

You will note the original link doesn’t work right now. It was pointed out to me by Robert VerBruggen of National Review that Kleck treats the CDC’s surveys discussed in this paper as if they were national in scope, as Kleck’s original survey was, but they apparently were not. From VerBruggen’s own looks at CDC’s raw data, it seems that over the course of the three years, the following 15 states were surveyed: Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. (Those states, from 2000 census data, contained around 27 percent of the U.S. population.) Informed of this, Kleck says he will recalculate the degree to which CDC’s survey work indeed matches or corroborates

his, and we will publish a discussion of those fresh results when they come in. But for now Kleck has pulled the original paper from the web pending his rethinking the data and his conclusions.

Furthermore, economist Alex Tabarrok has noted an interesting issue of statistics in his blog post, “[Defensive Gun Use and the Difficult Statistics of Rare Events](#)“:

People answering surveys can be mistaken and some lie and the reasons go both ways. Some people might be unwilling to answer because a defensive gun use might have been illegal (Would these people refuse to answer?). On the other hand, mischievous responders might report a defensive gun use just because that makes them sound cool. The deep problem, however, is not miscodings per se but that miscodings of rare events are likely to be asymmetric. Since defensive gun use is relatively uncommon under any reasonable scenario there are many more opportunities to miscode in a way that inflates defensive gun use than there are ways to miscode in a way that deflates defensive gun use... The bottom line is that it’s good to know that the original Kleck and Gertz survey replicated — approximately 1% of adult Americans did report a defensive gun use in the 1990s — but the real issue is the interpretation of the survey and for that a replication doesn’t help.

So what can Americans interested in rational gun policy make of this?

My own preliminary conclusions:

- 1) We still don’t really know how many defensive gun uses (DGUs) there are each year.

Doherty offers his own analysis of reasons why reported numbers might be both too low or too high in his 2015 article, “[How to Count the Defensive Use of Guns.](#)”

- 2) The number of DGUs has likely increased since the 1990s.

The numbers of Americans with legal concealed weapons permits has [increased dramatically from the 1990s to today](#), as more states have adopted laws allowing such permits. It would make sense that the numbers of DGUs has likely increased as well.

- 3) We don’t know why the CDC chose not to publish that data from the 1990s.

Kleck offers some ideas in his original paper. One possible explanation:

Another factor, however, might also have played a role in the decision of CDC personnel to not report the DGU findings. For CDC’s own surveys to generate high estimates of DGU prevalence was clearly not helpful to efforts to enact stricter controls over firearms, since it implies that some such measures might disarm people who otherwise would have been able to use a gun for self-protection.

One CDC official in the 1990s [openly told the *Washington Post*](#) that his goal was to create a public perception of gun ownership as something “dirty, deadly — and banned.” Given that history, I can’t dismiss Kleck’s critique.

- 4) The right to self-defense does not depend on statistics (echoing a point I made last month).

I especially like [Doherty’s discussion](#) on this:

However interesting attempts to estimate the inherently uncountable social phenomenon of innocent DGUs (while remembering that defensive gun use generally does not mean defensive gun firing, indeed it likely only means that less than a quarter of the time), when it comes to public policy, no individual's right to armed self-defense should be up for grabs merely because a social scientist isn't convinced a satisfyingly large enough number of other Americans have defended themselves with a gun.

In summary, the topics of "gun violence" and defensive gun uses are still topics worthy of objective scientific research. And again, **any study of 'gun violence' should include how guns save lives.**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/paulhsieh/2018/04/30/that-time-the-cdc-asked-about-defensive-gun-uses/#b6e0503299aa>

Is the CDC Banned from Researching Gun Control?

According to our liberal friends, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is banned from researching gun violence, and it's all thanks to the NRA.

In October 2017, following the massacre at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, the **Washington Post** ran an article titled "Why gun violence research has been shut down for 20 years." In it, the author Todd Frankel writes that "In 1996, the Republican-majority Congress threatened to strip funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention unless it stopped funding research into firearm injuries and deaths. The National Rifle Association accused the CDC of promoting gun control. As a result, the CDC stopped funding gun-control research."

What Frankel is referring to is the **Dickey Amendment**, named after Arkansas Republican Jay Dickey. It was as a result of his amendment that the CDC saw \$2.6 million cut from their budget, the exact amount they had spent on gun control efforts. It's based off this chain of events that we see headlines like:

- This Senator Wants to Revive Federal Research on Gun Violence, 22 Years After Congress Banned It – **Mother Jones**
-
- Treat gun violence like the public health epidemic it is and lift research ban – **The Baltimore Sun**
-
- The CDC Can't Fund Gun Violence Research. What if that Changed? – **Wired**
-

But here's the thing – **the CDC was never banned from researching gun violence, or gun control**, despite the Dickey Amendment. According to The Federalist's **David Harsanyi**:

Absolutely nothing in the amendment prohibits the CDC from studying "gun violence," In response to this inconvenient fact, gun controllers will explain that while there isn't an outright ban, the Dickey amendment has a "chilling" effect on the study of gun violence. Unlikely is the notion that a \$2.6 million cut in funding so horrified

the agency that it was rendered powerless to pay for or conduct studies on gun violence. The CDC funding tripled from 1996 to 2010. The CDC's budget is over six billion dollars today.

I assume that the purpose of this talking point is to suggest that opponents of gun control fear having their beliefs debunked, but when **Obama had the CDC study gun violence in 2013** (which you'd think would debunk this bogus narrative in it of itself), it hardly came to the conclusions that Obama wanted. In fact, the study acknowledged that there could be millions of self-defensive gun uses each year, and doesn't mention gun control once in its discussion of mass public shootings.

Defensive Use of Guns

Defensive use of guns by crime victims is a common occurrence, although the exact number remains disputed (Cook and Ludwig, 1996; Kleck, 2001a). Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million (Kleck, 2001a), in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008 (BJS, 2010). On the other hand, some scholars point to a radically lower estimate of only 108,000 annual defensive uses based on the National Crime Victimization Survey (Cook et al., 1997). The variation in these numbers remains a controversy in the field. The estimate of 3 million defensive uses per year is based on an extrapolation from a small number of responses taken from more than 19 national surveys. The former estimate of 108,000 is difficult to interpret because respondents were not asked specifically about defensive gun use.

A different issue is whether defensive uses of guns, however numerous or rare they may be, are effective in preventing injury to the gun-wielding crime victim. Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual

Mass Shootings

According to the Congressional Research Service, public mass shootings “have claimed 547 lives and led to an additional 476 injured victims” since 1983 (Bjelopera et al., 2013, pp. 7-8). Mass shootings are a highly visible and moving tragedy, but represent only a small fraction of total firearm-related violence. Although it may seem that protection against such an event is nearly impossible, proactive law enforcement activities, including community policing and intelligence-led policing, may help prevent some mass shootings (Bjelopera et al., 2013). Analyzing the details of a prevented event against those of a realized event might provide guidance to schools and other locations with large groups of people about efficient and effective ways to avoid such an event. Proactive mental health risk assessment and interventions may also prevent some mass shootings. It is also apparent that some mass murder incidents are associated with suicides (Bell and McBride, 2010). However,

That’s hardly the only study out of the CDC that could hardly be considered damning to those favoring gun rights. Back in the 1990s the CDC conducted a series of surveys on self-defensive gun use in 1996, 1997, and 1998, then proceed to never release the findings or publicly acknowledge that they were researching the subject.

The question asked in the CDC survey addressed the use or threatened use of a firearm to deter a crime. “During the last 12 months, have you confronted another person with a firearm, even if you did not fire it, to protect yourself, your property, or someone else?”

Florida State University criminologist **Gary Kleck** recently got access to the surveys, and after reviewing them discovered that they found “in an average year during 1996–1998, 2.46 million U.S. adults used a gun for self-defense.”

At least two of those surveys was conducted in years that liberals claim the CDC was banned from conducting gun research.

Language clarifying that the Dickey Amendment does not prohibit the research of gun violence was signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 23rd of this year. Ironically, by the looks of the CDC’s past research, this won’t bode well for those advocating for the Dickey Amendment’s repeal.

* * * * *

No, Government Isn't 'Banned' From Studying Gun Violence

Gun control advocates want to lift the ban on politically motivated gun research because they're interested in politically motivated research.

A popular fiction circulating around the gun debate these days contends that “the government” has been “banned” from studying “gun violence.” This prohibition, I’m regularly assured, has led to a dearth of reliable science on firearms, and only when it’s lifted can America start alleviating the “epidemic” of mass shootings.

“Why Can’t the U.S. Treat Gun Violence as a Public-Health Problem?” asks one major publication. “Gun violence research by the government hasn’t been funded in two decades. But that may soon change,” says another. “The CDC can’t fund gun research. What if that changed?” ponders a third.

And on and on and on.

The most obvious problem with this assertion is that it’s untrue.

In 1996, a few years after the Center for Disease Controls had funded a highly controversial study that has since embedded itself into the “scientific” case for gun control, Arkansas Republican Jay Dickey* added an amendment to a funding bill that dictated “none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control” should be used to “advocate or promote gun control.” That same year, Congress also cut \$2.6 million from the CDC’s budget, the amount it spent on gun control efforts. Bill Clinton signed it into law. Absolutely nothing in the amendment prohibits the CDC from studying “gun violence,” even if this narrowly focused topic tells us little. In response to this inconvenient fact, gun controllers will explain that while there isn’t an outright ban, the Dickey amendment has a “chilling” effect on the study of gun violence.

Does it? Pointing out that “research plummeted after the 1996 ban” could just as easily tell us that most research funded by the CDC had been politically motivated. Because the idea that the CDC, whose spectacular mission creep has taken it from its primary goal of preventing malaria and other dangerous communicable diseases, to spending hundreds of millions of

dollars nagging you about how much salt you put on your steaks or how often you do calisthenics, is nervous about the repercussions of engaging in non-partisan research is hard to believe.

Also unlikely is the notion that a \$2.6 million cut in funding so horrified the agency that it was rendered powerless to pay for or conduct studies on gun violence. The CDC funding *tripled* from 1996 to 2010. The CDC's budget is over six billion dollars today. And the idea that the CDC was paralyzed through two-years of full Democratic Party control, and then six years under a president who was more antagonistic towards the Second Amendment than any other in history, is difficult to believe, because it's provably false.

In 2013, President Barack Obama not only signed an Executive Order directing the CDC to research "gun violence," the administration also provided an additional \$10 million to do it. Here is the study on gun violence that was supposedly banned and yet funded by the CDC. You might not have heard about the resulting research, because it contains numerous inconvenient facts about gun ownership that fails to propel the predetermined narrative. Trump's HHS Secretary Alex Azar is also open to the idea of funding more gun violence research.

It's not banned. It's not chilled.

Meanwhile, numerous states and private entities fund peer-reviewed studies and other research on gun violence. I know this because gun control advocates are constantly sending me studies that distort and conflate issues to help them make their arguments. My inbox is bombarded with studies and conferences and "webinars" dissecting gun violence.

The real problem here is two-fold. One, researchers want the CDC involved so they can access government data about American gun owners. Considering the rhetoric coming from Democrats — gun ownership being tantamount to terrorism, and so on — there's absolutely no reason Republicans should acquiesce to helping gun controllers circumvent the privacy of Americans citizens peacefully practicing their Constitutional rights.

Second, gun control advocates want to lift the ban on politically skewed research because *they're interested in producing politically skewed research*. When the American Medical Association declares gun violence a "public health crisis," it's not interested in a

balance look at the issue. When researchers advocate lifting the restrictions on advocacy at the CDC, they don't even pretend they not to hold pre-conceived notions about the outcomes. It's also worth noting that concerns over the politicization of the CDC were, then as now, well founded. If you read this 1994 *New York Times* piece, titled "New Tactics Urged in Fight Against Crime," you'll find Mark Rosenberg" — then director at the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which oversaw the "gun violence" research — urging America "to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes ... It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol — cool, sexy, macho. Now it is dirty, deadly — and banned."

There's no reason to allow activists — then or now — to use the veneer of state-sanctioned science for their partisan purposes. For example, we now know that Rosenberg and others at the CDC turned out to be wrong about the correlation between guns and crime — a steep drop in gun crimes coincided with the explosions of gun ownership from 1996 to 2014.

The Dickey Amendment *might* keep the CDC from funding activism. What it doesn't do is stop the CDC from funding good-faith rigorous research into violence.

<http://thefederalist.com/2018/03/09/no-government-isnt-banned-from-studying-gun-violence/>

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"None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control."- This does not "ban" the CDC from researching gun violence. CDC was not banned from doing the research. In fact, CDC articles pertaining to firearms have held steady since the defunding, and even increased to 121 in 2013.

CDC very recently released a 16-page report that was commissioned by the city council of Wilmington, Delaware, on factors contributing to its abnormally high gun crime, and methods of prevention. The study weighed factors such as where the guns were coming from, the sex of the offenders, likeliness of committing a gun crime, and how unemployment plays a factor. In other words it studied, the environment surrounding the crime. It's purpose was to prevent biased advocacy on political views, which is something that cannot be included in research by definition.

In the late '80s and early '90s, the CDC was openly biased in opposing gun rights. CDC official and research head Patrick O'Carroll stated in a 1989 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, "We're going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths." His successor and director of the CDC National Center of Injury Prevention branch Mark Rosenberg told *Rolling Stone* in 1993 that he "envision[s] a long term campaign, similar to tobacco use and auto safety, to convince Americans that guns are, first and foremost, a public health menace." He went on to tell the *Washington Post* in 1994 "We need to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes. It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol — cool, sexy, macho. Now it is dirty, deadly — and banned."

CDC leaders were not shy about their intentions of banning guns from the public. Sure enough, they acted on their desires. In October 1993, *The New England Journal of Medicine* released a study funded by the CDC to the tune of \$1.7 million, entitled "Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home." The leader author was Dr. Arthur Kellermann, an epidemiologist, physician, and outspoken advocate of gun control.

In the study, Kellerman concluded that people who kept guns in their homes were 2.7 times more likely to be homicide victims as people who don't. Major media outlets, such as the New York Times, still cite these statistics.

However, the research was beyond flawed. For one, Kellermann used epidemiological methods in an attempt to investigate an issue dealing with criminology. In effect, this means he was treating gun violence the same as, say, the spread of West Nile, or bird flu.

It provided no proof or examples that the murder weapon used in these crimes belonged to the homeowner or had been kept in that home.

Furthermore, the gun victims he studied were anomalies. They were selected from homicide victims living in metropolitan areas with high gun-crime statistics, which completely discounted the statistical goliath of areas where gun owners engage in little to no crime.

Other factors that lent to the study's unreliability were: It is based entirely on people murdered in their homes, with 50 percent admitting this was the result of a "quarrel or romantic triangle," and 30 percent said it was during a drug deal or other felonies such as rape or burglary; it made no consideration for guns used in self-defense; it provided no proof or examples that the murder weapon used in these crimes belonged to the homeowner or had been kept in that home.

These problems prompted objections and questions from leading scientists in the field of criminology, such as Yale University professor John Lott, Florida State's Gary Kleck, and University of Massachusetts sociology professors James D. Wright and Peter H. Rossi. Their research had come to vastly different conclusions, and they found the methodology unsound.

As Lott says of Kellermann's study in his book, "More Guns, Less Crime": To demonstrate this, suppose that we use the same statistical method—with a matching control group—to do a study on the efficacy of hospital care. Assume that we collect data just as these authors did, compiling a list of all the people who died in a particular county over the period of a year. Then we ask their relatives whether they had been admitted to the hospital during the previous year. We also put together a control sample consisting of neighbors who are part of the same sex, race, and age group. Then we ask these men and women whether they have been in a hospital during the past year. My bet is that those who spent time in hospitals are much more likely to have died — quite probably a stronger relationship than that between homicides and gun ownership in Kellerman's study. If so, would we take that as evidence that hospitals kill people? He summarized, "it's like comparing 100 people who went to a hospital in a given year with 100 similar people who did not, finding that more of the hospital patients died, and then announcing that hospitals increase the risk of death." The final nail in the coffin came in 1995 when the Injury Prevention Network Newsletter told its readers to "organize a picket at gun manufacturing sites" and to "work for campaign finance reform to weaken the gun lobby's political clout."

Appearing on the same page as the article pointing the finger at gun owners for the Oklahoma City bombing were the words, "This newsletter was supported in part by Grant #R49/CCR903697-06 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I'm fine with the CDC studying it like they do now, as long as the requirement to study it unbiasedly is still there. Do we really want government agencies "researching" topics to come to a predetermined finding? If we change a few words from the quotes that precipitated the "ban" would we be against it?

In the late '80s and early '90s, the CDC was openly biased in opposing gay rights. CDC official and research head Patrick O'Carroll stated in a 1989 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, "We're going to systematically build a case that homosexuality causes AIDS deaths."

His successor and director of the CDC National Center of Injury Prevention branch Mark Rosenberg told Rolling Stone in 1993 that he "envision[s] a long term campaign, similar to tobacco use and auto safety, to convince Americans that gays are, first and foremost, a public health menace." He went on to tell the Washington Post in 1994 "We need to revolutionize the way we look at homosexuals, like what we did with cigarettes."

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Dispelling the Myth That the US Government is Banned From Studying Gun Violence.

Origins of the Myth

At its core this is a gross misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the fact. While the US government and its agencies are free to conduct whatever research, studies, or reports on the subject they see fit the CDC is explicitly barred from using its funds to promote gun control.

The actual law reads as such:

“None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.” - Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997

So the CDC can research whatever they want, produce any studies or reports they want, and present any findings they want. The only thing they cannot do is use their funding to promote gun control, which is a political position.

The Reasoning behind the Restriction

Those that repeat and propagate this myth often blame the NRA for it. However as the above citation shows the actual law was put in place by the US Congress.

It was Congress that did this because of the CDC's strong political stance against guns that was present in their work. This is due in part to, " [the] official goal of the CDC's parent agency, the U.S. Public Health Service, had been "...to reduce the number of handguns in private ownership", starting with a 25% reduction by the turn of the century."

But why would the US Congress feel so compelled to implement such a specific measure? As the aforementioned quote mentioned the CDC, by its own admission, took a stance against gun ownership and produced biased studies and reports to support the predetermined objective of promoting gun control.

"We're going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths. We're doing the most we can do, given the political realities. - P.W. O'Carroll, Acting Section Head of Division of Injury Control, CDC, quoted in Marsha F. Goldsmith, "Epidemiologists Aim at New Target: Health Risk of Handgun Proliferation," Journal of the American Medical Association vol. 261 no. 5, February 3, 1989, pp. 675-76.

"In 1979 the American public health community adopted the "objective to reduce the number of handguns in private ownership," the initial target being a 25% reduction by the year 2000.³ Based on studies, and propelled by leadership from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the objective has broadened so that it now includes banning and confiscation of all handguns, restrictive licensing of owners of other firearms, and eventual elimination of firearms from American life, excepting (perhaps) only a small elite of extremely wealthy collectors, hunters, or target shooters. This is the case in many European countries."

The Clear Evidence that Disproves the Myth

Still the most damning evidence that disproves this myth are the reports and studies themselves. Here are some recent studies on gun violence produced by the CDC:

CDC Report, "Firearm Homicides and Suicides in Major Metropolitan Areas — United States, 2006–2007 and 2009–2010".

CDC Report, "Elevated Rates of Urban Firearm Violence and Opportunities for Prevention—Wilmington, Delaware Final Report".

CDC, Report, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence".

Besides these the CDC has also conducted firearms related studies from those on suicides to those on hearing safety, such as:

CDC Report, "Noise and Lead Exposures at an Outdoor Firing Range — California"

Increase in Suicide in the United States, 1999–2014

In addition to the CDC reports there are a plethora of government agencies and organizations that conduct firearm related and specific studies and reports ranging from annual reports to special studies. These include:

FBI Annual Uniform Crime Reporting

FBI report "A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013"

The Congressional Research Service's report "Mass Murder with Firearms: Incidents and Victims, 1999-2013"

DOJ Report to National Institute of Justice, "Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003"

DOJ's "Firearm Use by Offenders".

The Bureau of Justice Statistics alone has Over 20 gun related studies and reports over the past two decades.

Conclusion

So not only can the US government conduct studies, research, and reports on the subject they have they have produced a vast amount if those over the past few decades.

* * * * *

CDC Gun Research Backfires on Obama

In the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, President Obama issued a list of Executive Orders. Notably among them, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was given \$10 million to research gun violence.

"Year after year, those who oppose even modest gun-safety measures have threatened to defund scientific or medical research into the causes of gun violence, I will direct the Centers for Disease Control to go ahead and study the best ways to reduce it," Obama said on Jan. 16.

As a result, a 1996 Congressional ban on research by the CDC "to advocate or promote gun control" was lifted. Finally, anti-gun proponents- and presumably the Obama Administration- thought gun owners and the NRA would be met with irrefutable scientific evidence to support why guns make Americans less safe.

Mainstream media outlets praised the order to lift the ban and lambasted the NRA and Congress for having put it in place.

It was the "Executive Order the NRA Should Fear the Most," according to The Atlantic.

The CDC ban on gun research "caused lasting damage," reported ABC News.

Salon said the ban was part of the NRA's "war on gun science."

And CBS News lamented that the NRA "stymied" CDC research.

Most mainstream journalists argued the NRA's opposition to CDC gun research demonstrated its fear of being contradicted by science; few- if any- cited why the NRA may have had legitimate concerns. The culture of the CDC at the time could hardly be described as lacking bias on firearms.

"We need to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes," Dr. Mark Rosenberg, who oversaw CDC gun research, told The Washington Post in 1994. "Now [smoking] is dirty, deadly and banned."

Does Rosenberg sound like a man who should be trusted to conduct taxpayer-funded studies on guns?

Rosenberg's statement coincided with a CDC study by Arthur Kellermann and Donald Reay, who argued guns in the home are 43 times more likely to be used to kill a family member than an intruder. The study had serious flaws; namely, it skewed the ratio by failing to consider defensive uses of firearms in which the intruder wasn't killed. It has since been refuted by several studies, including one by Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck, indicating Americans use guns for self-defense 2.5 million times annually. However, the damage had been done- the "43 times" myth is perhaps gun-control advocates' most commonly cited argument, and a lot of people still believe it to this day.

So, the NRA and Congress took action. But with the ban lifted, what does the CDC's first major gun research in 17 years reveal? Not exactly what Obama and anti-gun advocates expected. In fact, you might say Obama's plan backfired.

Here are some key findings from the CDC report, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence," released in June:

1. Armed citizens are less likely to be injured by an attacker:

"Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was 'used' by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies."

2. Defensive uses of guns are common:

"Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million per year... in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008."

3. Mass shootings and accidental firearm deaths account for a small fraction of gun-related deaths, and both are declining:

"The number of public mass shootings of the type that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School accounted for a very small fraction of all firearm-related deaths. Since 1983 there have been 78 events in which 4 or more individuals were killed by a single perpetrator in 1 day in the United States, resulting in 547 victims and 476 injured persons." The report also notes, "Unintentional firearm-related deaths have steadily declined during the past century. The number of unintentional deaths due to firearm-related incidents accounted for less than 1 percent of all unintentional fatalities in 2010."

4. "Interventions" (i.e, gun control) such as background checks, so-called assault rifle bans and gun-free zones produce "mixed" results:

"Whether gun restrictions reduce firearm-related violence is an unresolved issue." The report could not conclude whether "passage of right-to-carry laws decrease or increase violence crime."

5. Gun buyback/turn-in programs are "ineffective" in reducing crime:

"There is empirical evidence that gun turn in programs are ineffective, as noted in the 2005 NRC study *Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review*. For example, in 2009, an estimated 310 million guns were available to civilians in the United States (Krouse, 2012), but gun buy-back programs typically recover less than 1,000 guns (NRC, 2005). On the local level, buy-backs may increase awareness of firearm violence. However, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for example, guns recovered in the buy-back were not the same guns as those most often used in homicides and suicides (Kuhn et al., 2002)."

6. Stolen guns and retail/gun show purchases account for very little crime:

"More recent prisoner surveys suggest that stolen guns account for only a small percentage of guns used by convicted criminals. According to a 1997 survey of inmates, approximately 70 percent of the guns used or possess by criminals at the time of their arrest came from family or friends, drug dealers, street purchases, or the underground market."

7. The vast majority of gun-related deaths are not homicides, but suicides:

"Between the years 2000-2010 firearm-related suicides significantly outnumbered homicides for all age groups, annually accounting for 61 percent of the more than 335,600 people who died from firearms related violence in the United States."

Why No One Has Heard This

Given the CDC's prior track record on guns, you may be surprised by the extent with which the new research refutes some of the anti-gun movement's deepest convictions.

What are opponents of the Second Amendment doing about the new data? Perhaps predictably, they're ignoring it. President Obama, Michael Bloomberg and the Brady Campaign remain silent. Most suspicious of all, the various media outlets that so eagerly anticipated the CDC research are looking the other way as well. One must wonder how media coverage of the CDC report may have differed, had the research more closely fit an anti-gun narrative.

Even worse, the few mainstream journalists who did report the CDC's findings chose to cherry-pick from the data. Most, like NBC News, reported exclusively on the finding that gun suicides are up. Largely lost in that discussion is the fact that the overall rate of suicide- regardless of whether a gun is involved or not- is also up.

Others seized upon the CDC's finding that, "The U.S. rate of firearm-related homicide is higher than that of any other industrialized country: 19.5 times higher than the rates in other high-income countries." However, as noted by the Las Vegas Guardian Express, if figures are excluded from such anti-gun bastions as Illinois, California, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., "The homicide rate in the United States would be in line with any other country."

The CDC report is overall a blow to the Obama Administration's unconstitutional agenda. It largely supports the Second Amendment, and contradicts common anti-gun arguments. Unfortunately, mainstream media failed to get the story they were hoping for, and their silence on the matter is a screaming illustration of their underlying agenda.

* * * * *

Obama Study Concluded Firearms Used for Self-Defense ‘Important Crime Deterrent’

“Self-defense can be an important crime deterrent,” concluded a study by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mandated via executive order by President Barack Obama. The findings also question the effectiveness of gun-control measures.

The \$10 million study was commissioned by President Barack Obama as part of 23 executive orders he signed in January of 2013.

The study’s findings include:

Gun-use is the safest of studied “self-protective strategies,”

Suicide accounts for most firearm deaths,

Felons who use guns very seldom obtain their guns by stealing them, and

There is no evidence that gun restrictions reduce gun violence.

“Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was ‘used’ by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies,” the CDC study, entitled “Priorities For Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence,” states.

Researchers also found that the majority of firearm deaths are from suicide, not homicide. “Between the years 2000 and 2010, firearm-related suicides significantly outnumbered homicides for all age groups, annually accounting for 61 percent of the more than 335,600 people who died from firearm-related violence in the United States.”

“Most felons report obtaining the majority of their firearms from informal sources,” adds the report, while “stolen guns account for only a small percentage of guns used by convicted criminals.”

The report expresses uncertainty about gun control measures, stating that “whether gun restrictions reduce firearm-related violence is an unresolved issue,” and that there is no evidence “that passage of right-to-carry laws decrease or increase violence crime.” It also stated that proposed “gun turn-in programs are ineffective.”

Instead, researchers proposed gun safety technologies such as “external locking devices and biometric systems” to reduce firearm-related deaths.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:17:31 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose 1541

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:31:53 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Kaku	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:23:33 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Pierce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a taxpayer, I believe this is a terrible waste of my taxes. Hawaii does not have a gun violence problem, nor does it need a specific center to research it. These funds should be used to make improvements to existing US facilities and programs. Or if the funds are not needed for other UH uses, there are plenty of other state infrastructure projects grossly in need of progress. I strongly oppose this measure.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:29:23 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James A. Palicte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in OPPOSITION to HB1541. This bill creates another wasteful option for the state to take funds and make new laws that will continue to infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens here in the state of Hawaii. In a time where our state is facing a shortage on funds and at a point where the residents of our state are continuously OVER taxed, we have to be more considerate as to where and what our government is spending money on. For example, this money could be instead used to repair the aging facilities at the University of Hawaii. Again, I would implore you to please vote in OPPOSITION to HB1541, and give heed to the constitution you swore to uphold, and the people you are accountable to-your constituency.

Mahalo,

-James P.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:35:33 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The money being spent on this research study could be best used for other things. Hawaii is the only state that denies ALL it's law abiding residents the right to carry a firearm outside of their home or place of business. So the study would be incomplete because no is allowed to use a firearm for self defense outside of the home like how law abiding citizens are allowed to in the other 49 states.

So this study would be mainly one on criminals use of firearms. And Hawaii doesn't have many of these. A simple call to each counties police station can find out the statistics in about 1 day at the most. So again, a waste of money and resources.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:24:38 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Austin White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1541

Just last year in December of 2018, the legislature published a 140 page report on Hawaii firearm laws and related statistics. In the report, the commission only had 1 recommendation to make. In the end, it essentially stated that Hawaii **DOES NOT HAVE A FIREARM PROBLEM**. As such, after many months and countless taxpayer dollars spent, the “need” to spend more of our tax dollars on a wasteful study to glean information already freely available is a waste and is repugnant to the citizens of Hawaii.

Hawaii Report - <http://lrbhawaii.org/reports/legrpts/lrb/2018/18-01.pdf>

Based on a CDC report, Hawaii is ranked 50th for firearm related deaths (2.5:100,000) with the majority of 66% being suicide.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm

We already have one of the highest cost of livings in the country and poorest infrastructures. A recent study using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to find out what the average "living wage" is in each state showed we need to make \$136, 437 (the highest) to meet the guideline. The next in line was California at \$99,971, a \$36,000 difference. Again, the “need” to spend more money to have another study done for information we already have is a waste.

Hawaii still one of the worst states to pay taxes, study says

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2018/10/11/hawaii-still-one-of-the-worst-states-to-pay-taxes.html>

MOST EXPENSIVE PLACE TO LIVE IN U.S.? HAWAII, WHERE TOILET PAPER COSTS MORE THAN ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

<https://www.newsweek.com/most-expensive-place-live-us-hawaii-toilet-paper-costs-more-628977>

This Is the Living Wage You Need in All 50 States

https://www.gobankingrates.com/making-money/jobs/living-wage-every-state/?utm_campaign=788761&utm_source=yahoo.com&utm_content=1

“Hawaii is the most expensive state in the country, mostly due to housing costs that run more than triple the national average at about \$36,000 a year. As such, despite a median income of nearly \$75,000 a year, the typical Hawaiian is still over \$61,000 short of a living wage — the largest such gap in this study.”

Please do not waste anymore of our hard earned tax dollars on this or any other wasteful program.

Mahalo

From: [tony wood](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose HB1541
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:38:31 AM

My name is Tony Wood, I reside in District 23, 47. I vehemently oppose HB1541 due to the fact that it does absolutely nothing but establish another agency to waste taxpayers money. We have family's living in the streets, rampant crime, out of control cost of living yet this is what you choose as a priority? As a voter, resident, and as well as retired military Police Investigator who has weighed the facts and acts of this past few years legislation, there is a clear bias towards the constitutional right to keep and bear arms. This new agency will do nothing but create results that favor whoever is paying the bills wants it to create. This blatant attack on the constitutional rights of Americans will not be forgotten. Vote No on HB 1541.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:41:24 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy Goo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose Bill 1541

Where is the money going to come from. Making more laws that affect law abiding citizens? and does nothing to stop violent criminals? Just enforce the laws that are on the books. We have more gun laws in Hawaii, than any other subject in the HRS. Not one gun law that you have on the books has prevented any crimes using a firearm by criminals. Registration of firearms, All the man power and time, but I don't know of any instance that registering firearms has prevented a crime.

WE OPPOSED THE WASTE OF MONEY!

Judy Goo, Dan Goo Retired HPD, Sean Goo, Mariah Goo, Katherine Goo, Elisha Goo

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:09:57 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Sosta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Legislators,

The legislature JUST LAST YEAR, funded a study on gun violence

the result of the study was HAWAII DOES NOT HAVE A GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEM!
yet the legislature wants to WASTE more money and time in an effort to come up with
false "proof" that more "common sense gun legislation" is needed
please spend time and money on THE REAL PROBLEMS IN HAWAII, like the cost of
living, homelessness, mental health issues, traffic, illegal drugs... i could go on listing
things forever.

sincerely,

Ed Sosta

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:42:16 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Goo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose Bill 1541

Where is the money going to come from. Making more laws that affect law abiding citizens? and does nothing to stop violent criminals? Just enforce the laws that are on the books. We have more gun laws in Hawaii, than any other subject in the HRS. Not one gun law that you have on the books has prevented any crimes using a firearm by criminals. Registration of firearms, All the man power and time, but I don't know of any instance that registering firearms has prevented a crime.

WE OPPOSED THE WASTE OF MONEY!

Dan Goo - Retired HPD, Judy Goo, Sean Goo, Mariah Goo, Katherine Goo, Elisha Goo

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:26:34 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Fukuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it is another way to waste my tax dollars. It also burdens the University of Hawaii that has higher priority issues to deal with such as educating our children. Gun violence in Hawaii is low why does it need to be studied? It would be more prudent for the legislature to spend the money on the University's rundown physical plant instead. It is ridiculous to create another black hole for my tax dollars that serves no useful purpose.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:32:23 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Stevens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Ladies & Gentleman of the Committee,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to HB1541 HD2. Using tax payer funds to "research strategies to prevent gun violence" is a waste, unless there has been a dramatic spike in gun violence here in Hawaii that I'm unaware of. In my first year of living in Hawaii I have not found that to be the case, even without exercising my Right to carry a handgun that I enjoyed regularly back in Connecticut.

Further, "gun violence" of an illegal nature is already just that, illegal! What possible strategy is there to research, making it more illegal? Nonsense. If there has been a serious gun violence spike in Hawaii, perhaps allowing law-abiding citizens to exercise their Right to both keep & BEAR arms is a strategy worth researching - make criminals think twice before committing a crime. As author Robert Heinlein famously said, "An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good when one may have to back up his acts with his life."

Thank you,

Bill Stevens

Kailua Kona, HI

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:49:40 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am in sting opposition to this bill. The state doesn't need to spend money to try and figure out how to reduce gun violence. What it really need a to do is enforce harsher penalties for those who currently break the law. The less number of sheep dogs you have to protect a flock the easier it is for the wolves to kill sheep.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:39:09 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Hopkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I oppose HB1541 HD2. This study is unnecessary especially since a recent study concluded that Hawaii has no gun violence problem. The bill also does not guarantee balance of positive use of firearms by owners.

I urge that you all vote no. Please do not waste taxpayers money on this "study" The Legislature should concentrate more on the homeless, illegal drugs, mental health roads, etc.

Aloha,

William Hopkins

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 1:12:16 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Holcomb	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this measure. Hawaii does not have a gun violence problem, and funding this kind of politically motivated misuse of taxpayer funds is a slap in the face to other desperate issues that are not getting the attention they deserve. Right now people are more afraid of having their lives ruined by criminal cops or being thrown out into the street by greedy landlords than they are about this nebulous concept of "gun violence". Since half of the gun violence statistics used to justify these measures are suicides then we would be better off funding suicide prevention because that would at least benefit some people instead of being a total waste of money. Suicide prevention and funding mental health programs are not as glamorous as the mainland billionaire funded **causes célèbres** but they actually have the potential to save some lives.

Thank you for your consideration
Jacob Holcomb

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 2:34:38 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 3:19:34 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edmund Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1541. This is not needed here in Hawaii.

Funds should be used for other reasons that are actually of importance.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 4:38:32 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Traci Powers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There have been studies funded by the legislature already showing Hawaii does not have a gun violence problem. This money would be better spent on finding resolutions to the growing homeless problems causing our neighborhoods and communities to be unsafe and unsanitary for children. I implore you to vote against this measure and use these funds to address the escalating crime as a result of escalating homelessness in our state.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:12:27 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mikhael Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Previous studies show that Hawaii has no gun violence problem. Please dont waste public funds.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:33:36 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Call	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:41:42 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tony lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Where is the money coming from? UH just lowered tuition to stay competitive and attract more students.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:06:45 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1541 HD2. This is another veiled attempt to now use taxpayer dollars to conduct biased studies whose only purpose is to deprive citizens of the constitutional rights. The State of Hawaii can surely use this funding for better purposes, since the legislature is always squawking about how there isn't enough money to go around, and that we need to raise taxes. Certain legislators, e.g. Karl Rhoads, are using this pointless study to push the anti-gun agenda of "guns kill people, not people". If this were the case, we would ban automobiles in order to prevent drunk driving. This is a politically-biased wild goose chase to be funded by the hard working citizens of Hawaii. Please oppose this senseless waste of money.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:32:22 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shaun Woods	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please recognize my OPPOSITION to HB 1541.

No one is fooled by the name "Gun Violence Prevention Center." We know that the sole purpose of this Center will be to increase violence by crafting measures to violently threaten peaceful people who own guns. Every gun law is a violent threat against peaceful people - people who are responsible, caring, and statistically more law-abiding than even law enforcement.

If you want to prevent violence, stop threatening peaceful people who want to carry firearms for protection. Stop pretending you have any authority to stop them from doing so. Listen, gun owners obey gun laws because they fear you and your law enforcement officers more than they fear criminals. Think about that. They're more afraid of being shot by their government than they are of rapists and murderers. Those who write and enforce gun laws are NOT agents of peace. They are oppressors. Don't be one. Side with the People, not the criminals.

Sincerely,

Shaun Woods

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:14:41 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jorge	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1541. This is a waste of taxpayer money with Hawaii's low gun crime rate.

Last year in December of 2018, the legislature published a 140 page report on Hawaii firearm laws and related statistics. In the report, the commission only had 1 recommendation to make. It essentially stated that Hawaii DOES NOT HAVE A FIREARM PROBLEM. As such, after many months and countless taxpayer dollars spent, the "need" to spend more of our tax dollars on a wasteful study which is already freely available is a waste of money to the citizens of Hawaii.

Based on a CDC report, Hawaii is ranked 50th for firearm related deaths (2.5:100,000) with the majority of 66% being suicide. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm

Why doesn't this bill research and promote defensive uses of firearms?

Any Study Of 'Gun Violence' Should Include How Guns Save Lives
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/paulhsieh/2018/04/30/that-time-the-cdc-asked-about-defensive-gun-uses/#b6e0503299aa>

But regardless of who conducts this research, there are three key principles all public health researchers and firearms policy analysts should remember.

1. Firearms save lives as well take lives.
2. The value of firearms in the hands of law-abiding citizens should be measured in terms of lives saved or crimes prevented, not criminals killed.
3. The right to self-defense does not depend on statistics and numbers.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 2:42:59 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Ishimine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Aaron Ishimine oppose any and all anti gun bills that may prevent use and/or infringe upon these rights that has been given to all of us legal citizens. According to the United States Constitution Second Amendment, A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. By altering, modifying, taking away these rights that has been the law of the land which all of you have sworn to protect these rights, period!

Who had to take the Oath of Office? Under current law any individual elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services, except **the President**, shall take the following oath: "I, [name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, ...

Please use your heads and think. Do you know who causes more harm while using of a gun in America today and the past ten years? Criminals that ignore the laws, that don't care how hard you make it in order to purchase a legal gun! He or she will get a gun illegally and posses and use it during a crime! Now think if we the responsible, registered gun owners don't have access to our guns anymore. These criminal will know that schools and churches are not the only gun free zones anymore. They'll be in our HOUSES, hiding in our Cars, in the Malls, watching for easy prey, easy targets which is now a much LARGER GROUP since we no longer have use of guns to PROTECT OURSELVES , OUR FRIENDS, OUR NEIGHBORS and our FAMILIIES!

With more druggies and mentally ill people out loose in society, the time has come to legally allow responsible law obiding citizens to conceal carry more than ever! I BELEIVE just the thought that anyone could have a gun for protection would be a HUGE DETERENT by itself! Gun free zones wouldn't exist therefore there would be no more easy targets! NO MORE MASS SHOOTINGS!

Please, the facts are the facts! Police cannot be everywhere at all times nor can they respond to all calls in time to prevent violence! Everyone knows calling the police takes five to ten or more minutes before they arrive! We the people need to be legally able to protect ourselves, family, friends and property without FEAR of ENDING UP in JAIL! In my opinion in addition to calling 911, VIDEO RECORDING to DOCUMENT EVENTS PRIOR, DURING and AFTER an EVENT which will be used as evidence in

court of law should be mandatory! Capturing these events that escalated into VIOLENCE should be captured along with any other cases to document use of force by everyone and more importantly to JUSTIFY the URGENCY to use deadly force. Video evidence is the modern eyes and ears for our justice system!

Thank you for your time, Aaron Ishimine

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:30:37 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert gerwig	Testifying for HRA member	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:36:19 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the Honorable State of Hawaii House of Representatives,

I urge you to please oppose HB1541: RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION. This would be a misuse of taxpayer dollars by funneling funds into a non-essential program. It would fail to address initiatives that would prevent suicides and strengthen mental health support in the state.

According to the Centers for Disease Control: Hawaii has the lowest 'firearm death rate'. Per a 2017 report by the Attorney General: a vast majority of homicides were committed by strongarm weapons (hands and feet), edged weapons and other non-firearm weapons.

HB1541 mentions that firearms are used in twenty-percent of suicides in the state. What about the remaining *eighty-percent* of suicides? If the intent of this bill is to save lives: it fails to achieve that by ignoring the reasons people commit suicide. It also fails to acknowledge deficiencies in support programs for people with mental illness. Per www.health.hawaii.gov: 65% of suicides (on O'ahu) were people who had a history of mental illness.

According to an Associated Press article dated December 10, 2017: mental health care is drastically underfunded in Hawaii. In a September 17, 2018 article of the Honolulu Civil Beat: we have up to a 33% shortage of psychiatrists. According to experts: this shortage is greatly attributed to the state's high cost of living. The lack of funding and psychiatric professionals equates to a lack of support for people suffering from mental illness. A lack of support for people with mental illness will consequently result in a growing number of suicides each year.

The US Commerce Department indicated that Hawaii has the highest cost of living. Could this be attributed to taxpayer dollars being allocated into non-essential programs? Programs such as the proposed Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center? Alternatively the State of Hawaii could put funding into finding ways to reduce the overburdening cost of living. Funding could go toward incentives for mental health professionals to open practices in Hawaii thereby ensuring adequate supports. The state could also improve upon suicide prevention thru an increase in promoting awareness. Funding could go

toward training for educators and people working in social fields. It could go toward advertisements for crisis hotlines and helpful numbers for supports.

As a taxpayer and voter I ask that you please oppose HB1541. The State of Hawaii could better appropriate funding into tackling suicide at its root, finding means to increase mental health supports, and education.

Thank you for your time and all that you do for the people of Hawaii!

From: [Katherine Neal](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: OPPOSE HB1541
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 5:49:57 PM

Aloha,

We don't need a gun violence research center. This is like going to the rainforest and building a desert reptile research center. Hawaii is already under investigation for the monorail project, should we really be throwing money at this thing that we don't need anyway? Why not work on making more jobs and lowering property prices so the homeless people can get help instead?

Thank you,
Katherine Neal

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:23:50 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samuel Webb	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is another way of spending our tax dollars, to provide fraudulent research, so you can take away more of our rights under the deception of gun safety.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:48:31 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clifford Goo	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB-1541. Forming another committee to do a study on gun violence, spending tax dollars again is a waste of time and money. The fact that the University of Hawaii would do the study is just plain bias. Who if any in the UH system are really qualified to understand firearms issues, laws, etc. Yet you want to have them do a study? Quit wasting tax payer dollars. Rail is already kicking our butts.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:31:10 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Yuen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1541. This bill is a waste of money and effort. There was already a study done last year that found that Hawaii did not have a problem with gun violence. The cause of crime in Hawaii can be attributed to the revolving door criminal justice system that allows criminals to repeatedly prey on the populace, the failing mental health care system that allows people with mental illness to roam the streets, the pervasive drug problem, and the rising cost of living that makes people turn to crime as a means of survival.

Any study should focus on the causes of the criminal behavior. If guns are to be the subject of a study, then that study should include all aspects of gun use both legal and criminal. Legal defensive, protective, and deterrent use of firearms would be shown to greatly outweigh the criminal use.

Jerry Yuen

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 11:59:41 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The intent of this bill is to establish a public institution to do research in support of anti-gun legislation. Research on firearms policy is fine, as long as it is without an agenda. The public should not pay to have their rights infringed.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:48:49 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hung Hei Cheng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly disagree with the creation of this new entity. It looks like another blank check written out to strip the state of needed funds to use on better healthcare for real diseases.

Gun violence deaths in Hawaii are insignificant compared to pedestrian traffic deaths. Where did you get that 299 billion dollars in cost associated with gun violence statistic? Really?!

That's what bothers me: these bills that makes up these inflated numbers to justify spending for something we don't need. A study broadcast in Jan 2016 on KITV Hawaii News Now states we have the lowest gun death rates in the nation two years in a row!

We have significantly more regulations regarding gun ownership. Your citizens have abided by these laws since 1996 when the firearms registrations began. We have the lowest gun deaths and, I don't have the numbers to back up this but I would guess, we have one of the lowest gun related crime rates in the nation.

You seem to think you can tax me contantly to pay for government. If I have to budget and live within my means, then the state needs to stop wasting my tax money.

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 1:26:35 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
taylor sumida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPPORT THIS BILL, THE FOCUS SHOULD BE OTHER PALCES//

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 2:12:12 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Nagai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 1:38:04 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/14/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald G Livingston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is a waste of money the state doesn't have for a report that will be anti-gun biased from a very

anti-gun state and university..