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HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
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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 COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1541, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

**April 3, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 211**

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1541, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, 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 fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special 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, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 7:24:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the passage of HB 1541 HD 2 SD 1.

Mahalo for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:47:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:48:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:48:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:49:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 10:18:19 AM  
Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

The O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee supports HB1541, HD2, SD1, because gun violence poses a significant public health and public safety risk in the State of Hawai`i as it does across the Nation in recent years. Substantial research on gun violence and its prevention must be conducted to help alleviate these public safety risks. HB1541, HD1, SD1, requires the University of Hawaii to conduct the much needed research to analyze and develop strategies to prevent gun violence in the State.

Mahalo nui loa,

Melodie Aduja

Chair, OCDLPC



**LATE**

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April 3, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads,  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz,  
Chair, Senate Ways & Means Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Support for HB 1541 Establishing the Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center**

Dear Senators Rhoads and Dela Cruz,

On behalf of Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, I offer our strong support for HB 1541, a bill to promote the establishment of an academic center for the study of gun violence at the University of Hawaii. For 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 36,000 lives are lost each year to firearms violence. In fact, over the last decade, nearly 400,000 Americans—including hundreds of Hawaiians—have been killed by gun violence. This immense public health crisis is relatively unknown in most other developed nations but remains a leading cause of death, injury, and human suffering in our country. State and national leaders have a responsibility to mount a serious, thoughtful, and informed policy response.

Federally funded research has been essential to shaping public policy on every other public health and safety issue, including efforts to fight the spread of disease, promote highway safety, develop vaccines and proper nutrition, and discourage alcohol and tobacco misuse. For example, federally funded research provided the evidence upon which policies that reduce motor vehicle crashes and fatalities, including child safety-seat use and divided highways, were based. Because of this research and the subsequent policy changes, the number of motor vehicle fatalities per mile driven has declined by more than eighty percent since the 1950s.

Unfortunately, federal funding for firearm violence research through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been virtually eliminated by Congress since 1996.

Because of this lack of federal support, too little firearm violence research has been done, and too little is known about firearm violence and its prevention. Additionally, only a small number of trained investigators are available, as a lack of funding has made it difficult to encourage researchers to pursue this area of study.

**By encouraging the University of Hawaii to become a leading center for gun violence research, HB 1541 would provide much-needed support for scientific research upon which policymakers can continue to develop effective, evidence-based solutions to the epidemic of gun violence.** Hawaii would follow the lead of efforts in California, where the first state-funded firearm violence research center was established in 2017. California's firearm violence research center has substantively increased what is known about gun violence in California, and its research is already helping to shape and evaluate firearm violence prevention policy in the state and across the nation. Funding similar research efforts in Hawaii could have comparable benefits in promoting firearm safety policy in Hawaii and in states across the country.

At a time when our nation is reeling from mass shootings, gun homicides, and gun suicides, it is critical to expand, not restrict, gun violence prevention research. This legislation to establish the Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center would provide the research to help craft sound, data-driven policy that makes our communities safer from gun violence.

We urge you to vote "Aye" on HB 1541.

Sincerely,



Kelly Drane  
Research Manager

**LATE**



Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Glen Wakai, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HEARING: Wednesday, March 4, 2019, at 10am  
RE: HB1541 SD1 Relating to Gun Violence Prevention

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition OPPOSES HB1541 SD1

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 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 (see attachment example) 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."

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. Instead of researching one way of preventing suicide, the funds would be better spent studying and preventing the root causes of suicide regardless of method.

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition believes that a Gun Violence Prevention Center will be inherently biased against Hawaii's law abiding gun owners as Hawaii has a history of civil rights violations against the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. The funding method is also a cause for concern as donations from individuals and organizations may bias the results along with the use of asset forfeiture funding.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition Opposes HB1541 SD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

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

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 2:32:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would be a waste of money. How about you give me \$100,000 and I'll call HPD and get the stats for you in 3 days time.

Why so fast and easy? Because only criminals carry guns and use guns for crime. So it's a 1 sided statistic that does not need much info to be gathered on. It would be more complicated if law abiding citizens were able to use their guns outside their home for self defense. But Hawaii denies ALL permits to carry outside the home/business. So it makes the study that much easier and faster.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 2:36:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 inherent 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 10:56:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ron Klapperich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure because Hawaii already has low gun violence and the money should be spent on enforcement measures instead. The bill appears to already be biased toward gun control, so the outcome has already been established. This is a waste of taxpayer's money.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2019 8:15:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Quentin Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1541 HD2 SD1.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 3:32:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 9:17:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2019 8:39:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

last legislative session, a study was authorized to research gun violence in hawaii

the results were that there is no gun violence problem in hawaii

why are you spending time and money on something that has already been looked at when we have real problems elsewhere?

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:16:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1541 HD2 SD1. 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. Hawaii has some of the strongest gun control laws already in place, and also has a very low gun crime rate. Funding is better spent on enforcement of existing laws, not finding new ways to throw money away. Please oppose this senseless waste of money.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 12:34:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please help us pass this bill, to establish the Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center within the University of Hawaii to research strategies to prevent gun violence, create a special fund to support the Center, and appropriate funds for this worthy program. Every gun-related death is a senseless death that is preventable. This program can help us concentrate our data and efforts to help reduce our gun violence.

Ellen Carson

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 4:34:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mitchell weber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1541,

UH has already proven themselves to either be too biased or just plain incompetent to perform the proper research this proposed center would be responsible for. During their initial testimony in regards to the Dickey Amendment they LIED to you!

This center would also rely on donations that would be appropriated to them by the very same ANTI Second Amendment groups that initially proposed the bill to our legislators (a blatant conflict of interest) UH is just as strapped for funds as the state, they religiously call the families of current students and alumni for money/raise the tuition and cut back on funding for their various programs (engineering/medical). What reasonable person would waste money on such a useless and dangerous endeavor such as the gun violence center?

Hawaii has the second lowest gun deaths in the nation, we are right behind Alabama, a very gun friendly state with more people and firearms. However our percentage of firearm owning citizens is higher around 40%. Instead of wasting valuable resources on a non issue I recommend UH forms a center for the research of drug abuse and its links to violent/non violent crime. The rising cost of living and the states growing drug epidemic will most definitely lead to violence. This center will do nothing to the stop or curb the criminals who would seek to rob or harm law abiding citizens.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 4:48:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jonathan weber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1541. I believe funding would be better used to improve engineering, math and science curricula rather than what HB1541 proposes. Because of lack of engineering classes, during my stay at UH, the idea of graduating in 4 years was nearly impossible. Use the funding where it really matters.

Thank you.



# Institute for Rational and Evidence-Based Legislation

P. O. Box 41

Mountain View, Hawaii 96771

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April 2, 2019

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Re: HB1541, HD2, SD1  
To be heard: Wednesday, April 2, 2019

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members,

Please vote NO on HB1541.

Below I will outline the reasons this bill ought to be defeated, but first I must comment on testimony previously submitted by the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) regarding this bill and the proposed “research” center. Testimony was presented to the Senate Committee on Higher Education Thursday, March 14, 2019 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, in which they wrote:

"UHM acknowledges that federal funding for research on gun violence has ended since passage of the Dickey Amendment in 1996..."

This was written by the very people who would be administering and doling out taxpayer funds for the proposed “research center”, and yet, here they are making a statement, as I prove conclusively below, that is patently false. There are two possible explanations for this grievous error: 1. They are abysmally ignorant, and/or 2. They are liars. That's not being harsh, that's just a fact. There is no other accounting for their statement (Okay, maybe they were all three being held hostage and they and their families were being threatened if they didn't submit the testimony, but I rather doubt it... Occam's razor.) The problem in this context of course is that if they are that ignorant or willing to lie about the very genesis and purported rationale for this “research center”, what can we realistically expect to be discovered by them and their minions about the issue of “gun violence” (see my testimony below for a critique of that terminology)? In short, these people are uninformed and/or willing to dramatically depart from the truth in order to support an agenda that benefits them... why would anyone expect anything different when it came to them selecting “researchers” and producing “research” that will merely buttress their forgone conclusions, as is the case in all the other such state supported “research centers” which have, without fail, produced blatantly biased articles that merely reflect their pre-held narrative that firearms, and the rights of their owners, need to be further restricted, even though they have to fabricate “evidence”, for example, make up statistical modeling (i.e. “synthetic models”) in order to produce

such propaganda. Their testimony alone is evidence they couldn't possibly produce anything approaching objectivity, let alone of value, and thus merits a rejection of their position and themselves and UHM as a vehicle for said propagandizing. Not unexpected given the political positions of the vast majority of the university faculty, but still: Shame on them.

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.

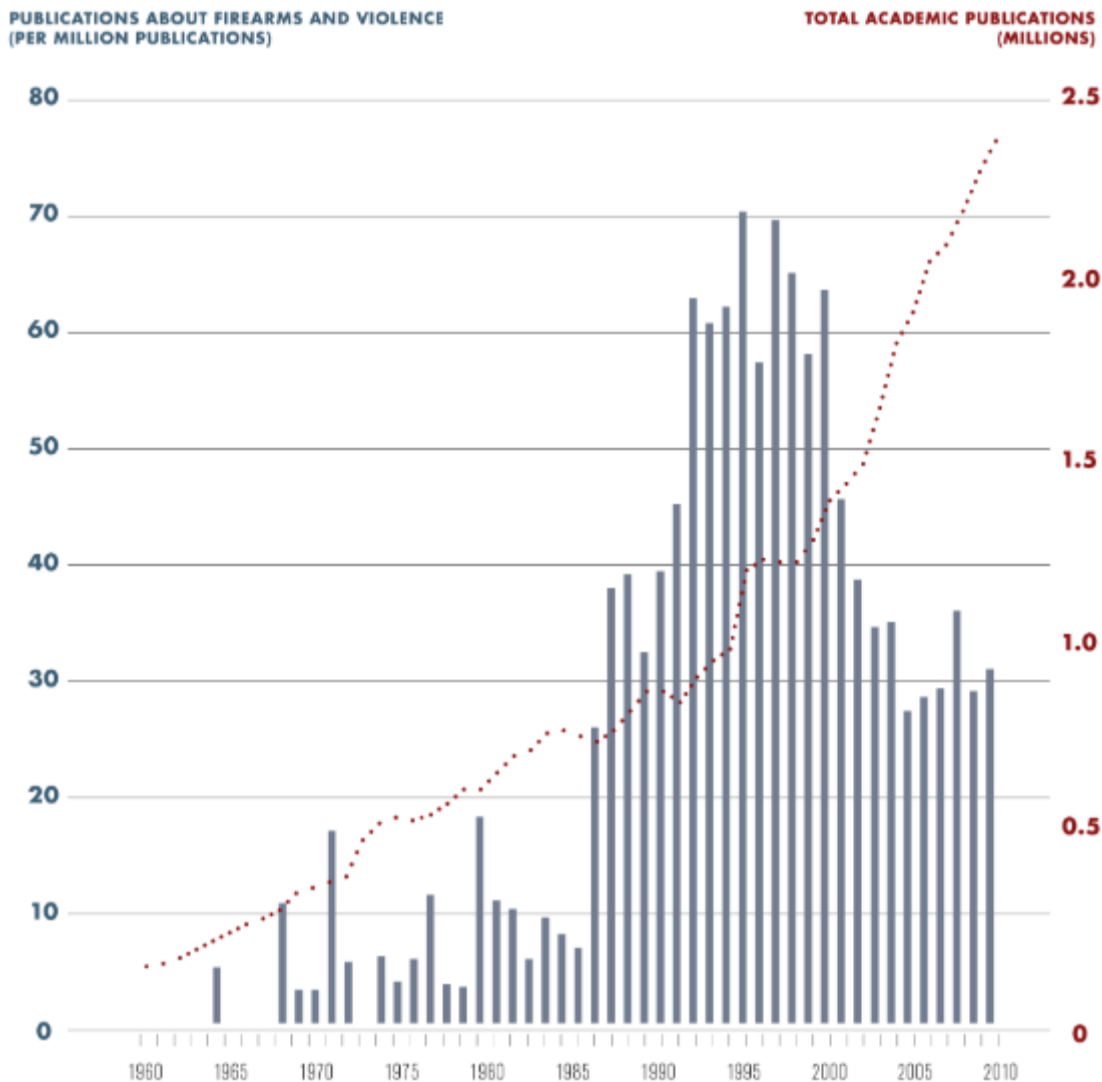
How could the CDC have conducted this research on firearm related violence in 1997, and 1998 if they were prohibited from doing so as of 1996 as the authors of this bill claim? How did the CDC produce Obama's 2013 CDC Report, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence"? 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".

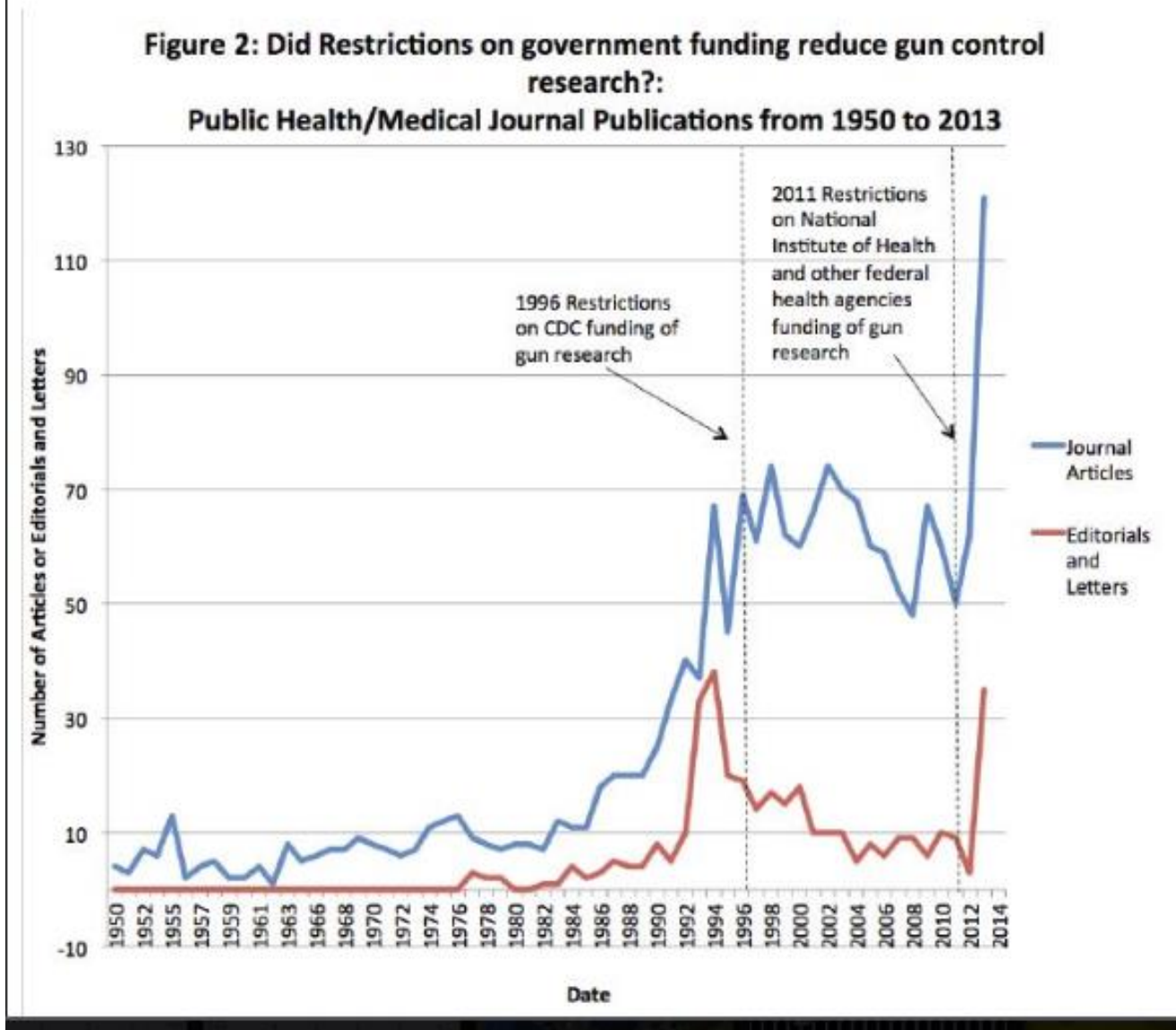
The cases of other state funded “gun violence research centers” has produced nothing but “advocacy study” results, because they only grant funds to people who they already know will produce the results they want to see: “guns are bad”. Certainly from the justifications offered by the authors of this 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 reserach" wherein "researchers" create study parameters (like discounting all self-defense uses of firearms) that will influence the uniformend 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 a 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>

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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/>

\* \* \* \* \*

"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 "envisioned 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."*

\* \* \* \* \*

# 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.<sup>3</sup> 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 8:34:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shelton Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE

How can lawmakers even think of wasting money on this?

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 8:39:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Yokota	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill, because it is a waste of taxpayer money. What could UH tell us that other, more nationally recognized institutions such as the CDC, FBI, and DOJ can't already tell us? We have the lowest gun deaths per capita in the US; 2.5 per 100,000. I just googled this: Hawaii per capita death rate by gun. Less than a second.

Why are we putting money towards a non-issue when the money could be better spent combating homelessness, affordable housing, the lack of job diversity, the exodus of people for a better life on the mainland, better funded public schools, crumbling sewers, roads, and infrastructure?

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:09:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacob Holcomb	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This is a waste of taxpayer money and a distraction from other issues that urgently need attention. UH is desperately trying to stay relevant and I'm sure whatever conclusions they come to will be politically motivated and have zero effect towards lowering violent crime rates.

The reaserch paper the Legislature published last December clearly shows that all the fancy new gun laws don't work. I'm pretty sure that's all everyone needs to know at this point.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:46:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Peter J Long III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I absolutely OPPOSE this proposal.

How can it ever even be possibly considered credible that any “Gun Violence Research Center” in this state, in particular, be anything more than a mouth piece for the progressives that run the Legislature? I can see it now, even though firearm owners in this state are among the most law-abiding in the country, due to the hurdles already in place restricting and encroaching the right of the people, the only thing coming out of such a think tank is more infringement! This is nothing more than a publicly funded propaganda mill run by the dominant political party in Hawaii as they seek to disarm its citizens. The UH has to come to the legislature for every item of funding required, I find the notion that any such “Research Center” could maintain a truly objective and non-biased approach laughable.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony and respectfully request that this bill be rejected.

Sincerely,

PJ Long

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:02:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judy Goo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

we oppose HB1541. money needs to go to better things such as the drug problem we have in Hawaii. It is not a homeless problem, its illegal drugs that will damage our society much more than firearms. Study the drug problem rather than firearms which has be studied over and over again.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 3:59:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dan Goo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose HB1541, there is mountains of evidence re: gun violence. Just waisting money, look at all the research that has been done already.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 4:24:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
brandon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1541. Its a waste of tax payer money. We need to crack down on the criminals, not law abiding gun owners. Mahalo for your time. Brandon W from puna



**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:09:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael A. Wee	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. It is a waste of taxpayer funds to address a non-existent problem. Using public funds to formulate anti-gun policies and present them as government-sponsored gun control advocacy is totally unfair to everyone.. Why would law-abiding gun owners fund (if they knew) an organization dedicated to curtail their Second Amendment rights? Unbelievable!

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 5:22:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Len Fergusen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 1541 given the plethora of current information readily available and the cost of creation and maintenance of such a research center. I'm a lifelong resident of Hawaii, an educational professional and I VOTE.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:32:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marc	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1541.

House bill 1541 proposes a gun violence prevention center to study and attempt to prevent gun violence IN HAWAII, while trying to support the need for this by stating NATIONAL statistics. Gun violence is not a problem in Hawaii. We are among the strictest states in the nation on firearms. What we have is a general violence problem which needs to be dealt with. Please consider opposing this bill as it is misguided use of our valuable tax dollars.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:14:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Heideman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 1541 and urge my representatives to oppose it, as well. There are already institutions funded by tax dollars that are studying gun violence, including the CDC, where unbiased research is only possible through the scientific approach, free from political views, lobbying, advocacy and infringement upon the rights of people. Funding this kind of research with taxpayer dollars in Hawaii would be a redundancy that wastes Hawaii taxpayers money. In addition, because it would allow for funding from private individuals and organizations, the data would be scientifically worthless because of the potential for extreme bias.

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:07:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward Call	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 10:11:41 AM  
Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn Pearl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Although Hawaii is one of the leading states for gun safety in the USA, we still suffer from too much gun violence - especially in cases of domestic disputes and in suicides. Research into this matter is important.

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 12:10:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James A. Palicte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to voice my FIRM DISAPPROVAL of HB 1541. Establishing a, "Gun Violence Research Center is a waste of taxpayer money and gross mis-allocation of resources. To have an organization such as this in place that would undoubtedly take money from special interest groups intent on infringing on the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens, is an unnecessary burden on said citizens. As a tax-paying, voting constituent, I urge you to uphold your oaths of office and the United States and ensure the rights of all are protected.

Mahalo,

-James P.

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 1:03:00 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Grant Nagata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Distinguished members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I'm writing in opposition of Bill HB1541. I understand that this bill and many like it is an attempt to understand and curb violence. I know that researching tools used to commit violent acts such as firearms, knives, bats, bricks, pipes, fists, elbows, etc., to prevent future violent acts isn't the solution. Violence is violence regardless of what tool is used. The tool isn't the problem, but the lack of integrity, character and the absence of values that people have today. Walk around and ask random people what their core values are, especially those under 40 years of age. You'll be met with blank stares and even the response of "what does that mean?" I know this because I've asked this question many times. It is sad when people know more about trivia, music and TV than their own value system. The words character, integrity, leadership, decision making, honor, delaying gratification, persistence, etc. aren't being taught and these values aren't being lived out by the adults in the home. I think that if we all took responsibility to establish and be examples of our values we would see violence of all kinds not just guns, but bullying, sexual assault, child abuse, verbal abuse, etc. be reduced.

I think we should allocate our time, energy and money to reestablishing these values in our State and County systems, including our education system, instead of funding a Gun Violence Research Center; research like this has been done before and we don't need to reinvent the wheel. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Grant Nagata



**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 1:08:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Betsey Strauss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Betsey Strauss, and I'm writing in strong support of HB 1541, Relating to Gun Violence Prevention.

With the growing rate of gun related violence and deaths in Hawaii and in our country, it's important as ever to establish ways to try and decrease such threats. A Gun Violence Prevention Center would provide a means by which to better understand how and why these acts happen, in order to prevent gun violence in Hawaii.

I am increasingly alarmed and saddened by the amount of firearm related incidents I read about, both against other people as well as self-inflicted. My two oldest children also hear of these acts at school or on the news. They ask me, "Mom why is this happening" and "Their families must be so sad." I wish I had a response for them that provided hope; more hope and confidence in their safety and for all our ohana in Hawaii and elsewhere, now and for the future. If further research is done to better understand these harmful and tragic acts, it could lead to ways to prevent them. If even one life can be saved, it is worth it to pass legislation like HB 1541.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 1:37:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeanelle Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Jeanelle Miller, I am a scientist law student, mother of two, and DV survivor. I am testifying in support of HB 1541.

Preventing gun violence is a difficult task but one that is imperative to the state's duty to keep the public safe. The task is made even more difficult when there aren't sound statistical data to base decisions off of and counter the many loud voices that make grandiose claims to persuade decision makers.

Gun violence is a sensitive issue that often triggers the limbic system of the brain and keeps people from thinking about the issue more systemically.

I am in support of studying gun violence because I want decisions aimed at preventing gun violence to be easy. If we have clear data and recommendations, then the public and decision makers will benefit from the knowledge and be able to make decisions based on sound research and deeper analysis instead of impulsive reactions.

Please support HB 1541 and the creation of the Gun Violence Protection Center.

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 6:43:05 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:26:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Legislature of the State of Hawaii,

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. It would also fail to strengthen mental health supports for those in need.

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](http://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!

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:52:28 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cheryl Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would be an incomplete study because no law abiding citizen is allowed to carry a firearm outside the home for self defense because Hawaii denies ALL open carry and concealed carry permits. A simple call to HPD and 1 week later we would know our state statistics. There is no need to spend money on a useless study.

**LATE**

**HB-1541-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 7:14:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Howard Suguitan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

waste of taxpayer money