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# Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ON THE INTERNET <http://www.acslpa.org>

Email Address: [acsl@nauticom.net](mailto:acsl@nauticom.net)

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## ACSL Lawsuit against Pennsylvania State Police

We are still awaiting a response from the PA Supreme Court on rendering a decision in our case.

## Center for Disease Control Reports finds No Evidence that Firearms Laws are Effective in Preventing Violence

A report released on October 3, 2003 by the Center for Disease Control finds that there is no evidence that gun control laws have been effective in Preventing violence with firearms.

According to an article in the Washington Times on the report "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study last week that states there is no evidence to prove gun-control laws are effective in preventing violence."

The article further reported that; In the exhaustive brief, the CDC analyzed scientific evidence regarding "bans on specified firearms and ammunition, restrictions on firearm acquisition (including waiting periods), firearm registration and licensing, concealed-carry laws, child-access-prevention laws, zero-tolerance laws for firearms in schools and combinations of firearms laws." The verdict? "The Task Force found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws or combinations of laws reviewed on violent outcomes." The task force also concluded that "firearms-related injuries in the United States have declined since 1993" despite the fact that "approximately 4.5 million new firearms are sold each year."

## Tennessee to recognize Pennsylvania License to Carry.

Two days after speaking to Attorney General Mike Fisher explaining that Tennessee had relaxed their requirements to allow out of state residents to carry in that state, his office announced an agreement. That agreement is that Tennessee will recognize a Pennsylvania permit, but no reciprocity agreement has been reached.

The Attorney General is currently waiting for Delaware to define the necessary procedure to process reciprocity agreements. As soon as Delaware is set up an agreement may be reached for reciprocity with that state.

## Rep. Tom Stevenson from Mt. Lebanon to Introduce Bill to Amend Election Law .

In a welcome move, State Representative Tom Stevenson is scheduled to introduce a bill, written in collaboration with the ACSL, to amend the Pennsylvania Election Code and require the Secretary of the Commonwealth to furnish lists of All Nominated Candidates to the Public. The bill calls for the Secretary to provide the public with access to the list of all candidates appearing on the ballot in the primary or the general election no later than thirty (30) days following the last day to file nomination petitions during the primary election and within thirty (30) days following the primary elections. The access to the list of candidates shall be made available via the internet or upon request of the Department of State.

Currently the bill has 10 co-sponsors and will be introduced next week. The names of the current co-

sponsors are as follows; B Bastian, T Corrigan, G Denlinger, R Grucela, B O'Neill, j Pallone, D Reichley, L Sather, S. Saylor, M Scavello, C Thomas, M Turzai, L Washington, R Youngblood.

## **Preventable Medical Complications Kill 32,000 People a year.**

In a report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Researchers from the U.S. government's Agency for Healthcare Research analyzed data on 18 complications sometimes caused by medical errors. They found that such complications contribute to 2.4 million extra days in the hospital each year.

Also they reported that Postoperative infections, surgical wounds accidentally opening and other often-preventable complications lead to more than 32,000 U.S. hospital deaths and more than \$9 billion in extra cost annually.

This study follows a 1999 Institute of Medicine report that said medical mistakes kill anywhere from 44,000 to 98,000 hospitalized Americans a year.

In comparison accidental firearm death are less than 800 per year.

## **State Senator Jane Orie to Introduced Reciprocity Reform in PA Senate**

State Senator Jane Orie's office has informed the ACSL that Sen. Orie will be introducing language drafted by the ACSL to reform Pennsylvania's reciprocity statute.

This bill will be identical to the bill introduced in the House by State Representative Daryl Metcalfe.

With the introduction of Sen. Orie's bill all pro-gun legislation in Pennsylvania will be in control of Southwester Pennsylvania legislators with a diverse list of co-sponsors.

## **NRA-ILA Grassroots Alert**

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**9/12/03**

## **MISSOURI OVERRIDES GOVERNOR'S VETO OF RIGHT TO CARRY BILL!**

On September 11, the Missouri Senate joined the House in voting to override Governor Bob Holden's veto of HB 349, making the "Show Me State" the nation's 36th state to pass a fair, non-discretionary Right to Carry (RTC) law. The veto of HB 349 was overridden in the House by a vote of 115 to 39. The vote in the Senate was 23 to 10. This marks only the seventh time in Missouri history that legislators have successfully overturned a governor's veto. Missouri joins Colorado, New Mexico, and Minnesota as the fourth state this year to pass a "shall issue" RTC law.

"The National Rifle Association would like to thank representatives and senators who voted for the override. They recognize the right of law-abiding Missourians to carry a firearm for protection," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox. "According to research, firearms are used more than 2 million times each year in self-defense, and studies have shown that states that have Right to Carry laws experience significantly less crime. Governor Holden's indifference on the issue of self-defense and the right of Missourians to protect themselves and their loved ones outside of the home was careless. The big winners today are the law-abiding citizens who will reap the benefit of this Right to Carry law," added Cox. "The streets of Missouri just became safer for everyone, except criminals."

There was overwhelming bipartisan support in the Missouri legislature for a Right to Carry law. On behalf of law-abiding gun owners throughout Missouri, NRA would like to recognize the support and hard work of Rep. Larry Crawford (R-117), Rep. Frank Barnitz (D-150), Sen. Harold Caskey (D-31), and Sen. Peter Kinder (R-27). As always, the grassroots effort and political activism by tens of thousands of NRA members across the state played a pivotal role in this process.

And Missourians can celebrate an additional victory this week as both the Senate and House voted overwhelmingly to override Gov. Holden's veto of Reckless Lawsuit Preemption (SB 13).

NRA-ILA congratulates you on these victories and thanks you for a job well done.

## **HIGH COURT HEARS MCCAIN-FEINGOLD CASE**

On September 8, the Supreme Court convened a rare special session to hear debate over the constitutionality of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), also known as McCain-Feingold.

Returning one month early from their summer recess for the first time in nearly 30 years, the high court broke protocol and heard four hours of oral arguments in this critically important First Amendment case. Your NRA-ILA has led the fight since day one.

Of greatest concern to NRA is the law's prohibition on running broadcast ads (termed "electioneering communications") that mention candidates for federal office during the critical 30-day period before a primary election and 60-day period before a general election. This First Amendment "blackout" period is a direct attack on free speech. During oral arguments, the point was forcefully made that this law "intrudes deeply into the political life of the nation." The law restricts local political parties, and in turn, national parties, and hurts grassroots political efforts. In fact, NRA was cited by name during these oral arguments on dozens of occasions, and dominated the debate.

Though the court appeared largely divided over the case, Justice Antonin Scalia seemed quite skeptical of the measure, predicting that "There will be abuses under this law."

A ruling is expected to come sometime this Fall. Rest assured that NRA-ILA will keep you apprised of any relevant developments or decisions in future issues of the Grassroots Alert.

#### **VOTE ON RECKLESS LAWSUIT BILL NEARING**

As we've repeatedly noted in the Grassroots Alert, one of NRA-ILA's top legislative priorities in Congress continues to be the passage of a federal law to block reckless, predatory lawsuits against the firearm industry. The passage of [S. 659](#) is critically important. We hope to have a vote on this crucial legislation in the coming weeks, and we cannot over-emphasize the need for you to remain actively engaged in ensuring its passage. It is imperative that you continue to contact your U.S. Senators in support of S. 659 and urge them to do everything in their power to end these meritless lawsuits and ensure that this essential legislation is approved. Let your Senators know that it is crucial they cosponsor and support S. 659. Also, please urge them to support the will of the majority by working to defeat the filibuster that anti-gun Senators have threatened to launch in a last-ditch attempt to defeat S. 659.

Also, please continue to communicate with your U.S. Representative and your Senators, and urge them to oppose current legislation seeking to reauthorize and expand the 1994 Clinton gun ban-[H.R. 2038](#), S.

1431, and [S. 1034](#). Please remember that for all of the above-mentioned action items, you can find contact information for your elected officials by using the "[Write Your Representatives](#)" tool at [www.NRAILA.org](http://www.NRAILA.org), or you can call your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121 and your U.S. Representative at (202) 225-3121.

#### **JOHN LOTT TOUR**

In coming weeks, acclaimed scholar John R. Lott, Jr., will be speaking and promoting his new book "THE BIAS AGAINST GUNS: Why Almost Everything You've Heard About Gun Control Is Wrong." This hard-hitting, fact-based book is a must-read for gun owners. Come listen to John Lott and have him autograph your copy of his book. You can see Mr. Lott at the following locations and times: Tuesday, September 16, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., Seattle University Law School, contact: Alexander Thomas on [thomas\\_a2@seattleu.edu](mailto:thomas_a2@seattleu.edu); Wednesday, September 17, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, contact: [stevenp@uidaho.edu](mailto:stevenp@uidaho.edu); Wednesday, September 17, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Gonzaga University Law School, 721 N. Cincinnati St., Spokane, Washington, contact: Crago, Christopher at [Ccrago@lawschool.gonzaga.edu](mailto:Ccrago@lawschool.gonzaga.edu); Thursday, September 18, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., University of Montana law School, Missoula, Montana, contact: Cory Swanson at [swanriver@usa.net](mailto:swanriver@usa.net); Monday, September 22, 12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m., Ohio State University Law School, Columbus, Ohio, contact: Albert J. Sauline III [asauline@columbus.rr.com](mailto:asauline@columbus.rr.com); Monday, September 22, TBD (evening), Ohio University, Athen, Ohio, contact: Curt Winzenreid [cw282101@ohio.edu](mailto:cw282101@ohio.edu).

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**9/19/03**

#### **NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOGNIZES ILA AWARD WINNERS**

On Saturday, September 13, three of NRA-ILA's Election Volunteer Coordinators (EVC) were recognized for their activities in 2002 and received NRA-ILA's highest volunteer awards. Each of these worthy recipients received their award from NRA President Kayne Robinson and NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox.

**2002 NRA-ILA Jay M. Littlefield  
Volunteer of the Year:  
Denny Watkins & Dave Conway**

Denny Watkins of Middletown, Ohio, is a tireless defender of our Second Amendment freedoms on all fronts. Not only is Denny a Life Member of both the NRA and the NRA-affiliated [Ohio State Rifle & Pistol Association](#), he is also an active member of many

local pro-gun organizations, including the [Miami Valley Friends of NRA Committee](#) (where he has served as Chairman & Co-Chairman), [Middletown Sportsmen's Club, Inc.](#), [Fort St. Clair Gun Club, Inc.](#), AK Trap Club (where he has served as President), Butler County Sportsmen Rifle & Pistol Club, and Mercer County Sportsmen's Alliance, to name a few. Within these organizations, Denny is an educator, activist, volunteer, leader, and role model for all gun owners and shooters.

In 2001, Denny volunteered to become the EVC for Ohio's 8th congressional district. During the critical 2002 election cycle, Denny was involved in many grassroots activities, including attending town-hall meetings, writing numerous letters-to-the-editor to local and national newspapers, distributing yard signs, working on Get Out The Vote efforts for pro-gun candidates, assisting with campaign events and rallies, manning pro-gun tables and booths at county fairs and various other events, and meeting with lawmakers and candidates on a regular basis. Thanks to his hard campaign work, major pro-gun victories last year included Jim Petro's election as the Ohio Attorney General, the re-election of U.S. Representative John Boehner, and the re-election of State Representative Shawn Webster, who has said that Denny is an "ardent supporter" whom he consults with regularly on Second Amendment-related issues.

Denny Watkins was nominated by numerous citizens across Ohio who support the Second Amendment. They include an officer of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, a pro-gun Ohio State Representative, a public school principal, and numerous gun club officials.

Having to cover 116 square miles is a monumental task for one volunteer to organize NRA members and gun owners in South Dakota. The vast distances of wide open prairie alone are intimidating. Yet, one member has stepped forward to take on the task - South Dakota Election Volunteer Coordinator, David Conway. Originally a native of Boston, Dave left the Bay State in search of open space and a state government that trusts its law-abiding citizens.

Dave started with the NRA state affiliate, the [South Dakota Shooting Sports Association](#), and quickly rose to become its Legislative Affairs Director. "Just being a member of a pro-gun organization isn't enough anymore." Conway says. "You have to give something back." Few give more than Dave has. He has worked with ILA lobbyists through the years to improve on South Dakota's existing gun laws. His ability to foster close relationships with public officials has garnered countless positive changes for

South Dakotans. David has often noted that he took on this role for his daughter's future. He is one of those very determined individuals who pulls more than his fair share when it comes to defending our common firearm freedoms.

### **2002 NRA-ILA Volunteer Organization of the Year: Firearms Coalition of Colorado**

Formed 14 years ago to fight the City of Denver's attempts to ban numerous semi-auto firearms, the Firearms Coalition of Colorado (FCC) exemplifies just what it means to be a "volunteer organization." During the last 14 years, working side-by-side with NRA-ILA, FCC has steadfastly continued its efforts to thwart countless attacks by anti-gun politicians at the local and state levels. These are the ladies and gentlemen that you commonly find working at 3:00 a.m. if that is what it takes to get the job done.

True to form, during Colorado's pivotal 2002 legislative session, members of FCC once again stepped forward to offer their resources and expertise. FCC members provided critical, expert testimony and extensive grassroots support in advancing Right to Carry legislation, statewide preemption, and numerous other pro-gun initiatives.

Thanks largely to FCC's dedication and perseverance, all law-abiding Coloradans have the opportunity to defend themselves and their families outside of their homes. Additionally, in passing statewide preemption, the city of Denver can no longer circumvent state law to enact its own draconian firearms regulations.

On the election front, the FCC proved just as determined and successful. Utilizing an efficient and vast network, the FCC worked to elect pro-gun candidates, and played an integral role in the defeat of key gun-banning politicians throughout the state.

Colorado's law-abiding firearm owners owe a great debt to the FCC, and NRA-ILA is proud to have them as an affiliated organization as we work together to achieve our common goals. Steve Schreiner and Len Horner were on hand to receive the award.

It was with great honor that the NRA-ILA bestowed the 2002 NRA-ILA Jay M. Littlefield Volunteer of the Year to Denny Watkins & Dave Conway, true defenders of our firearm freedoms. Equally deserving in their receipt of the 2002 NRA-ILA Volunteer Organization of the Year was the Firearms Coalition of Colorado. Each received a framed copy of the Bill of Rights that included a letter signed by NRA President Kayne Robinson, NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, and NRA-ILA's Executive

Director Chris Cox. On behalf of the entire NRA-ILA staff and the nation's 65 million law-abiding gun owners, we extend our deepest thanks and sincere gratitude for the work of the 2002 award winners!

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**9/26/03**

**BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR S. 659 CONTINUES TO GROW**

On September 25, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) joined 54 of his colleagues as a co-sponsor of [S. 659](#), the "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act." This critically important legislation seeks to protect America's firearms manufacturers and dealers from malicious lawsuits aimed at bankrupting a law-abiding American industry. In April, the U.S. House of Representatives passed its version of the legislation by an overwhelming bipartisan margin of 285 to 140. Senator Daschle's decision to support this measure as a cosponsor sends yet another clear message that support for this common sense legislation transcends party lines. We hope that fellow Senators will follow the lead of the U.S. House of Representatives and vote to protect one of America's oldest industries from these predatory lawsuits.

We hope to have a vote on this legislation in the coming weeks, and, thus, it is imperative that you continue to contact your U.S. Senators in support of S. 659 and urge them to do everything in their power to end these meritless lawsuits and ensure that this essential legislation is approved. Let your Senators know that it is crucial they cosponsor and support S. 659.

In addition, please continue to urge your U.S. Representative and your Senators to oppose current legislation seeking to reauthorize and expand the 1994 Clinton gun ban - [H.R. 2038](#), S. 1431, and [S. 1034](#). For all of the above-mentioned action items, you can find contact information for your elected officials by using the "[Write Your Representatives](#)" tool at [www.NRAILA.org](http://www.NRAILA.org), or you can call your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121 and your U.S. Representative at (202) 225-3121.

**HOUSE VERSION OF D.C.'S PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT INTRODUCED**

On September 25, Representatives Mark Souder (R-Ind.) and Mike Ross (D-Ark.) introduced H.R. 3193 - the House version of the District of Columbia Personal Protection Act. Demonstrating broad bipartisan support, H.R. 3193 was cosponsored by 22 Democrats and 40 Republicans. A companion to Senate bill S. 1414, introduced by Senator Orrin

Hatch (R-Utah) on July 15, this legislation seeks to restore the constitutionally-guaranteed Second Amendment rights of the residents of the District of Columbia. The need for this legislation is obvious. While effectively banning handgun ownership for over a quarter-century, Washington, D.C., consistently has one of the highest homicide rates in the nation. "D.C.'s politicians have stripped law-abiding residents of their ability to defend themselves and their families," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox. "Passage of the 'District of Columbia Personal Protection Act' will remedy this senseless and dangerous injustice."

**ENHANCING SPORTSMEN'S ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS**

NRA's Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre met this week with heads of three federal land management agencies and 16 sportsmen's groups to sign the "Sportsmen's Access to Federal Public Lands" Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement pledges cooperation in improving hunters' access to federally managed public lands. LaPierre noted that, "Improving access to federally managed public land for hunting purposes is vital to the survival of this cherished pastime. We are pleased that the federal agencies in control of public land recognize the positive contributions of hunters to wildlife management." The MOU is the first of its kind. In the agreement, the Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management agree to assist in the identification and improvement of areas where hunting access on public lands is inadequate. It is expected that the Park Service, and several additional agencies with huntable land, will likely sign on at a later date. NRA-ILA will keep you apprised of any relevant developments in future issues of the Grassroots Alert.

**INTERNET FILTER SOFTWARE BLOCKS PRO-GUN SITES**

The Internet is a great asset that provides us with once unimaginable amounts of information. But, of course, not all information is deemed appropriate, and many parents depend on Internet filter software to block sites they feel are inappropriate for their children. One such software program is Internet Security from Symantec Corp.

NRA members have discovered that after installing this software on their computers they can no longer visit NRA sites such as [www.NRAILA.org](http://www.NRAILA.org).

A Symantec corporate official contacted by ILA staff explained that if certain broad categories are selected to filter, it will block sites such as ours. He

said that end users can change the default settings so that specific desired sites are not blocked. Interestingly, however, gun prohibitionist sites such as those for the Brady Center are not blocked in the default setting. Information on anti-gun sites is left virtually unfiltered.

Symantec provides no explanation for this disparity, and, intentionally or not, the company is taking an anti-gun position in the debate over firearm ownership. Gun owners should be aware of how this software works and may wish to avoid using programs such as Internet Security that treat pro-Second Amendment sites the same as pornographic sites.

### **HUNTERS, GUN OWNERS TAKE NOTICE OF MINNESOTA "WARNING"**

Retailing giant Wal-Mart has promised not to sell guns and ammunition at its new St. Paul, Minn., store, making that location the only one of more than 35 Wal-Marts in the state to have such a policy.

According to the Pioneer-Press, local community leaders praised Wal-Mart's decision. "The concern was that this is an urban area and it's not appropriate for guns to be sold, particularly hunting rifles," said Travis Snider, president of the Snelling Hamline Community Council.

### **WATER FOR WILDLIFE**

In recent years NRA has weighed into battles to save water developments from being closed by federal land managers who believe that, when federal land is designated as wilderness or national monuments or park preserves, these man-made structures are not allowed. And even if certain water developments are allowed to remain, motorized access for operation and maintenance has been blocked. Water developments are critical to the survival in the arid western regions of this country for many species of wildlife, including popular big game animals like bighorn sheep and mule deer. Efforts of the Park Service, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to return certain lands to a pristine state have come at a great cost to wildlife that eventually perish from a lack of water sources. Nineteen hunting and conservation organizations joined the NRA in signing a letter sent to the Secretary of Interior requesting a departmental policy supporting water developments. The NRA strongly believes that the stewardship of federal public lands should not be separate from, and take precedence over, the wildlife that live on that land, and will pursue this issue to successful resolution.

(Correction: Last week, we incorrectly stated that, when organizing NRA members and gun owners in South Dakota, NRA-ILA Volunteer Award Winner David Conway covered an area of 116 square miles. The correct area is 77,116 square miles.)

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**10/03/03**

### **UNITED MINE WORKERS SUPPORT S. 659**

In recent months, we have frequently reported on the growing groundswell of support for passage of [S. 659](#), the "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act." Dozens of national associations, unions, wildlife conservation groups, and shooting sports organizations representing literally millions of dedicated members, workers, and sportsmen have expressed their unqualified support for this critically important legislation which seeks to protect America's firearm manufacturers and dealers from malicious, predatory lawsuits.

On September 23, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) added its name to this growing list. In a letter to U.S. Senators, UMWA International President Cecil E. Roberts encouraged lawmakers to, "cosponsor and strongly support" S. 659. The letter emphasized the potential negative economic impact of these reckless lawsuits against the gun industry and the resultant adverse effects they would inflict on workers and their communities. Enactment of S. 659 would protect the industry and, subsequently, jobs.

We hope to have a vote on this legislation in the coming weeks, and, thus, it is imperative that you continue to contact your U.S. Senators in support of S. 659 and urge them to do everything in their power to end these meritless lawsuits and ensure that this essential legislation is approved. Let your Senators know that it is crucial they cosponsor and support S. 659. You can call your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121, or you can use our "[Write Your Representatives](#)" tool at [www.NRAILA.org](http://www.NRAILA.org) to find contact information.

### **CAROLYN MCCARTHY ISM**

It's hard to believe that a year has already gone by since the tragic Washington, D.C.- area sniper attacks terrorized the region. Residents and visitors who experienced those anxious weeks won't soon forget them. And gun-ban proponents like Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.) won't soon stop trying to exploit them.

This week, Rep. McCarthy attempted to link the tragedy to her political agenda, calling for an

extension and expansion of the 1994 Clinton gun ban. Flaunting her indifference to the rights of law-abiding gun owners to decide which guns they choose to own, McCarthy commented, "What are these people thinking?" she asked. "If you want an assault weapon, go join the army." Of course, none of the guns covered by the ban are used by military forces.

Commenting on the gun banners' latest attempt to blame lawful gun owners for the acts of violent criminals, NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox stated, "In recent years ban groups have embarked on a campaign of exploiting tragic events in an attempt to restore their political relevance. Today, they politicized a despicable crime spree. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families."

Please continue to urge your U.S. Representative and your Senators to oppose current legislation seeking to reauthorize and expand the 1994 Clinton gun ban? [H.R. 2038](#), S. 1431, and [S. 1034](#). You can find contact information for your elected officials by using the "[Write Your Representatives](#)" tool at [www.NRAILA.org](http://www.NRAILA.org), or you can call your U.S. Senators at (202) 224-3121 and your U.S. Representative at (202) 225-3121.

## **NO PROOF THAT GUN CONTROL LAWS REDUCE VIOLENCE**

This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the results of a broad-ranging federal review of the nation's gun control laws. The CDC appointed task force, made up of 14 academic, business, and government health experts, reviewed 51 studies to determine whether gun laws do, in fact, prevent violent crimes, firearm-related accidents, or suicides. Included in the laws reviewed were bans on specific firearms or ammunition, mandatory registration and licensing, mandatory waiting periods, right to carry, and restrictions on firearm purchases.

What results did this study find? In every case, the CDC task force found "insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws." In short, a thorough review of 51 published studies concerning the effectiveness of eight different types of gun control laws found no conclusive proof that these measures reduce violent crimes, accidents, or suicide.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Edgar Suter, chairman of Doctors for Integrity in Policy Research, said, "It's certainly a quantum leap in the right direction. It has been as plain as the nose on my face that disarming innocent victims is not a policy that saves lives. The real benefit of defensive firearm use is the lives that are saved, injuries that are prevented, property that is saved and medical costs that are eliminated."