

Encinitas Advocate Letter to the Editor April 16, 2018

In our immediate community, Gun Shows glorify the use of guns, normalize guns for everyday use, and send a dangerous message to our youth in minimizing gun's importance and danger by making them readily available. We need to stop allowing Gun Shows at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, a public facility, which should reflect the family values of all its communities. Stopping the Gun Shows at the Del Mar Fairgrounds would be a good start to end this epidemic of gun violence. The Second Amendment states citizens can own guns; it does not require that we must support the sale of guns on public property.

On an average day, 7 children and teens are killed with guns in the U.S. In 2016, more youths were killed by gunfire than in any previous year. There have been more than 1,600 mass shootings since Sandy Hook. In an average month, 50 women are shot to death by intimate partners in the U.S.

America's gun homicide rate is more than 25 times the average of other high income countries.

Nearly 1,300 gun homicides occur in a year in the U.S. In states with more guns, more police officers are killed in the line of duty. States with tighter gun control laws have fewer gun-related deaths.

These facts are poignant reminders that the trauma caused with each gun related incident goes beyond the victim. Each mass shooting, each school massacre affects the first responders, nurses, doctors, family's members, teachers, school staff, friends and communities near and far. We need sensible gun law reforms to reduce this epidemic of gun violence. We don't need gun shows to help sell more guns and spread this epidemic.

The Dickey Amendment should be lifted because it banned all studies by the Center for Disease Control. The NRA did not want Americans to know we had an epidemic of gun violence. Studies were made on cars, and the cars are still here with us--- all the safer for us to operate, with rules and regulations for responsible car owners. Now car manufacturers look for ways to reduce deaths and injuries. The same could be said for studies on guns.

Let the CDC study this public health crisis and inform us how we can make our communities, schools and homes saved, while still allowing responsible gun owners to have the guns used for sport; responsible gun owners do not need weapons of war.

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