



# Mom Says

January 2006  
Volume 4, Issue 1

Greater Denver Million Mom Chapter, P.O. Box 100432, Denver, CO 80250-0432  
www.mmdenver.org mmm\_denver\_chapter@yahoo.com 303-302-3300

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Welcome Legislators
- 1 We Have A New Name and Logo!
- 1 Forced Entry: Guns at Work
- 2 Florida's Shoot First Law
- 2 Question of the Day
- 2 Did You Know?

## WHY ARE MILITARY WEAPONS ON OUR STREETS?

The FN Herstal Five-seveN is available to the public that can fire bullets that will penetrate the body armor worn by law enforcement officers. It is advertised on arms websites as "the first of a new generation," a handgun "that will defeat most body armor in military service around the world today... reliably penetrates Kevlar helmets and vests..."

The Five-seveN is a threat to law enforcement. Because of the range and accuracy of this weapon a gunman could easily hold an entire shift of law enforcement officers at bay for hours.

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.bradycampaign.org/ler/fnh/>

## Welcome Legislators

This is our fourth year of welcoming Colorado legislators at the beginning of a new session with flowers but with a couple of minor changes. This year we decided on pink carnations instead of yellow roses and chose to avoid the commotion of opening day for the slightly calmer second day of the Governor's State of the State address.

## We Have a New Name and Logo!

The Denver Chapter of the Million Mom March united with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence was quite a mouthful. It's going to take some time for us to get use to our shorter name, Greater Denver Million Mom Chapter. National has provided all chapters with their own version of the new Million Mom logo.

## Forced Entry: Guns at Work

The NRA is pushing hard to pass "take-your-guns-to-work" laws in all fifty states -- laws that would turn companies into criminals if they barred guns on their private property.

Gun violence in the workplace is a serious national problem. Forcing guns into that setting can only make the problem worse.

The Brady Center's new report, "*Forced Entry: The National Rifle Association's Campaign To Force Businesses To Accept Guns At Work*," blows the whistle on the NRA's strategy and explains how it tramples property rights and the right of businesses to set the terms and conditions of work. It also conflicts with companies' federal obligation to provide a safe workplace.

To download the report: [www.bradycampaign.com/xshare/pdf/forced-entry-report.pdf](http://www.bradycampaign.com/xshare/pdf/forced-entry-report.pdf).

## Florida's Shoot First Law

The law allows people in Florida to use deadly force in public places as a first resort to counter perceived threats. The law, which is being marketed by the NRA as allowing people to protect themselves, is so overly broad and expansive that everyday occurrences such as road rage incidents or a fistfight in a bar during spring break could have deadly consequences for the people involved and innocent bystanders.

Confusion over the law has Florida law enforcement wondering whether the law prohibits charges in a stabbing death that resulted from an argument. The killer pursued the victim for two blocks before stabbing him. A friend of the victim said, "If you feel threatened by a man, you don't run after him."

By allowing the use of deadly force as a **first resort**, the law has removed the common law duty of citizens to walk away, call the police, or find a safe refuge. We believe in the right to self-defense but good grief! What ever happened to using a gun as a **last resort**? This bill changes our culture and values. How are we to teach our children to use methods other than violence to resolve disputes if adults do not?

Finally innocent bystanders and their families have no civil recourse against the shooter if they are injured or killed in the crossfire even if the shooter initiated the confrontation and fired recklessly on a crowded street.

The NRA has announced plans to bring this law to all 50 states. To learn more: [www.shootfirst.org](http://www.shootfirst.org).

## Question of the Day

Which is more of a threat to the sport of hunting, revoking environmental safeguards to protect wildlife habitat or an assault weapons ban?

According to National Hunter-Angler Survey Results from July 12, 2004, Sportsmen rate loss of wildlife habitat across the country, loss of streams and wetlands, erosion from timber harvest and pollution from mercury emissions and as top concerns impacting hunting and fishing conditions.

The United States has lost more than half of its original wetlands - nature's most productive ecosystems - and continues to lose more than 100,000 wetland acres each year. Each year, Colorado loses 22,500 acres of open space and farmland to development.

## Did You Know?

Attorney General Ashcroft's ruling after 9-11 prevents the FBI from auditing the background check-system to determine if suspected terrorists bought guns.

A rider to the 2003 Appropriations bill allows the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) to deny public access to data that would reveal which gun dealers are selling the most guns into the criminal market, a very special exception to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The authority of the ATF to provide oversight to the gun industry has been systematically cut for years. The Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986 limited inspections of shops to once a year, reduced penalties for dealers who failed to keep proper sales records and added new burdens on prosecutors bringing criminal charges. The recently passed Gun Immunity bill limits the ability of the ATF to hold administrative hearings to revoke licenses of unscrupulous dealers. This means that the one percent of gun dealers responsible for nearly 60 percent of the guns traced to a crime will continue to do business as usual.