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ENDORSEMENTS FOR FEDERAL/STATE OFFICES

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence issued a press release endorsing Colorado federal and state candidates.

Colorado Ceasefire has endorsed state house and senate candidates.

To find out who they endorsed, go to our website, www.mmmdenver.org, and click on the links.

TRIVIAL VIOLATIONS?

A new report, Trivial Violations?, was issued by the Brady Center's new program Gun Industry Watch, a systematic effort to monitor the gun industry and expose industry practices that endanger innocent lives. Read it:

<http://www.bradycenter.org/gunindustrywatch/index.php>

Faith In Action to Prevent Gun Violence

The God Not Guns Coalition is an interfaith partnership consisting of faith-based groups that promote sensible gun policies at the local, state and national levels. It seeks to raise awareness of gun violence as a spiritual and moral crisis.

The Coalition is based on the premise that the gun culture without responsibility or regulation brings with it fear, violence and darkness. It also brings separation from God and light since with each death from gun violence we treat God's children as worthless instead of priceless.

Suggested coalition activities include bell ringing and vigils against violence. It's website, www.godnotguns.org, also contains resources and materials to help victims of gun violence begin the healing process. Talk to your faith community about joining.

Question of the Day

Where did the gun come from?

Often this doesn't get reported to the public, but it's a question that needs asking whenever a crime is committed with a firearm. We have to do more to stop the gun violence, to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them.

The lethal business of gun trafficking moves guns from legal manufacturers to licensed dealers to sales to prohibited buyers who convert them to illegal guns. These illegally sold guns hit the streets at an alarming rate, accounting for five out six guns recovered in crimes.

Federally licensed gun dealers who knowingly sell guns to straw buyers or fail to report stolen guns are responsible for 57% of guns recovered in crimes, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE 1998). These illegal guns end up in the hands of criminals and youth who use them to injure, maim and kill Americans at an alarming rate.

Illegal gun trafficking is big business for gun manufacturers, distributors and dealers, with an estimated 20% of total sales coming from illegally sold handguns. You can see why they look the other way.

The ATF's oversight of the gun industry and enforcement power has been cut by Congress and little has been done to prosecute dealer dealers who engage in illegal gun trafficking. Instead of making the ATF's job more difficult by passing H.R. 5092, our elected officials should be dedicated to the public safety.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

According to the Brady Campaign, more than four times as many women are murdered with a gun by their husbands or intimate acquaintances than are killed by strangers' guns, knives or other weapons combined.

In a 2003 study, researchers found that access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide more than five times more than in instances where there are no weapons. In addition, abusers who possess guns tend to inflict the most severe abuse on their partners. Research shows that family and intimate partner assaults involving firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those that do not involve firearms. Recent school shootings in Bailey and Pennsylvania deliberately targeted female students. Where was the outrage or are we so desensitized to violence against women?

Where's Your Head At? *(Or Just Call Me Irresponsible)*

Ever wonder what our elected officials are thinking when they introduce laws? Read below for a real head scratcher provided by Congressional Republicans.

The House introduced and passed legislation, H.R. 5092, as part of the "American Values Agenda" announced by House Republican leaders, which would gut the ATF's already limited powers to take away the licenses of rogue gun dealers. H.R. 5092, misnamed the ATF "Modernization and Reform Act of 2006," would reclassify a host of serious federal gun law violations as "minor," and raising the burden of proof to require ATF to show gun dealers specifically intended to break the law.

In a statement released by his office, House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois) said, "Through this agenda, we will work to protect the faith of our people, the sanctity of life and freedoms outlined by our founding fathers."

James Dobson of Focus on the Family says, "The House leaders are to be commended for demonstrating their commitment to the issues American families hold dear: marriage, life and freedom of religion. The announcement of the 'American Values Agenda' and its 10 priority bills signals that the GOP leadership in the House is in touch with the concerns of the values voters who sent them to Washington."

Values? Who's values? Certainly not the values of a majority of gun owners. This bill protects corrupt gun dealers who don't care how the guns are used and who is injured or killed. Let's look at one of them, Lou's Jewelry and Loan of Philadelphia. A report from the Brady Campaign, Lethal Lou's, chronicles how the shop sold guns to gun traffickers and straw purchasers, including Saad Abdul Salaam, who supplied a co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Read the report at www.bradycampaign.org/xshare/pdf/reports/lethal-lous.pdf

Colorado representatives cosponsoring and/or voting for the bill, Bob Beauprez-R, Marilyn Musgrave-R, John Salazar-D, Tom Tancredo-R, and Joel Heflev-R.

Did You Know?

In June, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in *Jupin v. Kask* that homeowners must ensure that firearms in their homes are secured from theft, or they may be held liable for shootings with stolen guns.

A study by psychology student Jennifer Klinessmith and her professors at Knox College, Galesburg, IL found handling a gun makes men's testosterone levels rise — and makes them more aggressive. "Such findings raise many of the usual questions about whether the presence of guns in modern society contributes to violent behavior," Klinessmith and colleagues conclude. "Although our study is clearly far from definitive, its results suggest that guns may indeed increase aggressiveness partially via changes in the hormone testosterone." To read more: www.webmd.com/content/article/125/116082.htm.

The Mayors Coalition Against Illegal Guns has expanded to 109 mayors in 44 states across the US. They also have a website, www.mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org. Ask your mayor to join.

Gun Owners of America opposed the renewal of the Voting Rights Act that would let anyone with a driver's license register to vote. The group contended that the Motor Voter Law has helped defeat at least two pro-gun members of Congress - Rep. Bob Dornan (R-CA) in 1996 and John Thune for US Senate in South Dakota in 2002. "Both of those losses would have been impossible were it not for the Motor Voter Law passed during the Clinton presidency," GOA said. What does this mean? It means a majority of Americans want common sense gun laws and that only one right is important to the GOA.