

I'm Ready to Talk

After any mass shooting, gun control advocates say they want to start a dialogue about gun control. Second Amendment advocates say the time isn't right because people are dying or are dead (mainly because gun control advocates wait, oh, a whole nanosecond before wanting to talk about gun control). Well, I'm ready to start the conversation.

Gun control doesn't work, has never worked effectively, and will continue to lead to mass shootings because the laws you propose will only serve to disarm the innocent.

Weren't expecting that, were you? Well, you should. It's much easier to count the successes of gun control than the failures because the former list is shorter than an earthworm's inseam. You may not believe it, but think about it for a second. What gun control measure has worked in America? Let me save you some time and give you the answer. None of them have worked. Not the Clinton assault weapons ban, not the mandatory background checks, not the "cooling off" period, none. Zip. Zero. The Big Goose Egg.

I'm sure you're shocked to hear this because of what you've been lead to believe by people like Shannon Watts and Michael Bloomberg, both of whom make a decent living telling you about the evils of the NRA, buying off politicians as clueless as they are, and taking the rest of the donations for...armed security. Hmm...why would gun control advocates need armed security?

They (and most likely you) will say it's because of the gun culture. But what is the "gun culture" exactly? Whatever you think it might be, let me tell you you're wrong. The gun culture is average Americans who share an affinity for guns. Not stereotypical rednecks, not militia types spouting paranoid delusions about black helicopters and UN camps, not

Rambo wannabes who think they need every gun ever made in a basement arsenal. Average Americans, with the same desire for protection you claim to want. Do yourselves a favor and go to a gun show with an open mind. Talk to the people there and get a sense of who they are as people. Then, come talk to me about the "gun culture."

And that hits to the heart of my main beef with the gun control movement: blatant dishonesty. You say you don't want to ban guns, but then you say certain guns shouldn't be in the hands of average citizens. You quote statistics that are easily debunked while ignoring statistics that reject your end goal. You talk at length about needing stricter gun laws in this country while turning a blind eye to cities where there are strict gun laws and gun-related killings are plentiful. You try to come up with clever ideas like taxing bullets or requiring gun owners carry liability insurance without considering the idea the lawless won't obey those laws anyway. And, most egregious of all, you use women and children to advance your position when they are the ones who would be better protected by having a gun in the home during a break-in than by calling 911.

As much flak as Dana Loesch got recently at CPAC for saying the media love mass shootings, she's exactly right, but she didn't go far enough. Gun control advocates need mass shootings to perpetuate the idea guns are a problem in this country. Guns aren't the problem; they are merely tools that mask the real problems. Mental health, lack of parental guidance, a culture where no one ever has to take responsibility for his or her actions and behaviors, failures of law enforcement at every level, and plenty more problems exist that bear more of a direct effect on gun violence in America than the fact someone decides to use a gun.

And let's face another uncomfortable fact. The measures you've put in place have failed repeatedly. As much as you like to blame the NRA for the shootings, not one NRA member has taken

up arms and shot up a school or a church or even a nightclub. You know who has? Individuals who have had a background check done and passed without so much as a red flag. In other words, these mass shooters you blame on the NRA are beating the system you said would make things safer.

We've done it your way for a long time and I'm tired of seeing your failures being propped up as answers to mass shootings in America. It's time we try a new approach. Here's what I've come up with.

1) A thorough review of all gun laws to find and eliminate redundancies and ensure Constitutionality. With over 20,000 gun laws on the books at every level of government, there is bound to be overlap because, let's face it, bureaucrats aren't creative types. On top of that, there may be laws that are no longer needed or legal given Supreme Court decisions, but just haven't been removed yet. Which leads to...

2) A moratorium on passing more gun laws until the review is completed. Until we get a handle on the laws already on the books and make enforcing said laws easier, we shouldn't add to the volume. The review suggested in point 1 will reveal holes in current laws that can be addressed, and the moratorium aspect will guarantee Leftists get behind it to make sure it gets done as quickly as possible.

3) Improved and expanded background checks. This is going to be controversial, but I actually see the value in expanding the background check process. For personal reasons I won't get into here, I do not want a gun in my house. And with the current background check process being more flawed than the facts in a Michael Moore movie, we need to fix it. Mental health, violent crimes, domestic abuse, and other red flags need to be caught before a problem arises and should be considered before allowing anyone access to a gun. And these can't be addressed until we overhaul the process.

4) Get rid of "Gun Free Zones." Leftists say an idea like this will turn America into the Wild West. Well, if you do a bit of research, you'll find stories of the Wild West being violent are just that: stories. And if you do a bit more research, you'll find many of the recent mass shootings have occurred where guns aren't allowed. Putting up a sign saying you're a gun free zone may make you feel pretty good, but it also puts a target on you as a helpless victim. Believe it or not, bad guys don't like potential victims who can fight back, and that's doubly so if those potential victims can shoot back. Dump the idea of gun free zones and let the bad guys wonder if someone who can fight back is on the premises.

5) Nationwide conceal and carry. To back up point #4, we are going to need to make criminals scared of crossing the presumed weak. Guns are the great equalizer. Young or old, male or female, straight or gay, a firearm in the hands of a responsible and trained individual can level the playing field and turn a potential victim into a survivor. The federal government's own research states there are at least 800,000 defensive gun uses per year, and that's with most of them occurring without a single shot being fired.

6) Gun safety classes as part of public and private schooling. This one comes up against my more libertarian thinking because I'm not one to make things mandatory, but there is some logic behind it. One of the biggest problems with gun ownership today is the fact there are so many people who don't know the first thing about guns. I'm looking right at you Leftists. To take the mystery out of guns and to build a healthy respect for what they can do, start teaching gun safety in schools. The "evil NRA" already offers such programs for children and adults. And if you gun control folks don't like it, you can substitute your own...oh, wait, you guys don't offer any gun safety courses. A part of this training can also be devoted to what to do in the case of an active shooter. If protecting our children is paramount, we must be willing to teach them gun

safety. Even if they grow up and never own a gun, the information may still be useful at some point. I mean, it's not like algebra or anything like that, right?

I know these six points lack the panache of a hashtag, but at this point, we don't need a catchy slogan; we need action and a new direction. We've done it your way, so it's time we try it mine.

Any takers?