
The \$16 Billion/year 'Benthamite Amendment' for the 115th Congress H.R. 5103 'Gun-Violence Tax Bill'

From: **Ernest L. Meyer**

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To

115th Congress:

Carolyn B. Maloney (NY 12), Chairwoman, Oversight and Reform Committee.

Jamie Raskin (MD 08), Chairman, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Subcommittee.

Danny Davis, (IL 07), First Author, the 'Gun-Violence Tax Bill,' HR §5103.

Doug LaMalfa (CA 01), local Congress representative.

Chris W. Cox, President, Capitol 6 Advisors; ex-Chairman NRA-PVF, Exec. Dir. NRA-ILA;
with thanks for suggested enhancements from NRA/NRA-ILA representatives.

President Obama, with thanks for support and direction.

Dr. G. Wintemute, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, Emergency Medicine (UC Davis, CA);

Director, Violence Prevention Research Program; with thanks for gun-safety data review.

Abstract

According to the Benthamite principle of *maximizing happiness*, this \$16 billion/year Amendment protects civil rights for all, rectifies social inequities, reduces gun violence, and reduces federal taxes. This Amendment recommends a **first-gun tax credit of \$102, and an excise tax of \$38/year** for all registered firearms, with the excise tax reducing as gun-violence cost with registered firearms reduces. From excise-tax revenue, **low-income households may receive redeemable vouchers for first-gun purchases** of government-certified self-defense firearms, either from inventories of prior federal gun-buyback programs, or from gun manufacturers. **Mandatory safety training** is also recommended. This Amendment includes substantiating data, enhancements from NRA representatives; 35 authoritative reference sources; projections from a decade of CDC and DoJ data; and peer review of gun-safety analysis.

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1) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After demonstrating this amendment does not conflict with the 2nd Amendment (Section II), subsequent sections detail four main recommendations:

1a) A SELF-PROTECTION FIRST-FIREARM FEDERAL TAX CREDIT of \$102. To further all citizens' self-defense rights, any person who has never bought a gun before, who lives in a household owning no guns, can receive a \$102 tax credit for purchasing a firearm for self defense (for derivation of the amount of tax credit and excise tax, see Appendix A). Abused spouses, for example, can receive the Self-Protection First-Firearm Federal Tax Credit if they move out or start a household meeting these conditions (for indications of family versus stranger homicide ratios, see Table 6 on page 9). Due to more households owning guns for the first time due to the tax credit, crime reduces, as per Lott ("*More Guns, Less Crime*," 1998-2010)

1b) A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX FOR EACH REGISTERED FIREARM of \$38/year. By best possible current estimates, the revenue from the federal firearm excise tax would exactly cover the amount of gun-violence cost with registered firearms paid for by taxpayers (the deduction from the tax due to illegal firearms is described in subsection A.3c of Appendix A). To stop paying the excise tax, an individual simply turns the registered firearm into the federal gun-buyback program, reducing the illegal firearm pool. Not everyone will take advantage of the tax credit right away, and households with guns currently own far more than three guns on average. Therefore, the excise tax is far more than sufficient to pay for the first-gun tax credit, with the vast remainder paying for gun violence, instead of federal and state taxes.

1c) Five enhancements from the NRA, detailed in Section 3, summarized as follows: (3a) A preceding **gun buyback program**; (3b) **low-income rebate vouchers** for those below the poverty line, and thus cannot receive a tax credit, to help purchase their first gun, (3c) **an upgrade to the NICS background check system** for low-income deductions at POS, and other features detailed below; (3d) **mandatory safety training** or equivalent demonstration of an individual's reliability with a firearm because fatal accidents from firearms will overtake homicides next year; and (3e) **NICS integration** with public-health records to reduce suicides.

1d) Adjustment of the excise tax amount correlating to gun-violence cost changes, so that gun-rights representatives then have a reason to work together with prior opponents on new gun-control legislation, to reduce the tax excise cost AND save lives. With reduction in gun violence, the excise tax can then fall until it only pays for the tax credit and low-income first-gun vouchers.

Benefits of this Amendment include:

- i. **Lower federal and state taxes** (by transferring gun-violence costs from federal and state budgets to be paid instead by income from the gun-violence excise tax. Also, more households are armed, so crime goes down).
- i. **More consensus on gun-control legislature** (due to shared interest in reducing the gun-violence tax.)
- ii. **Reduction in gun violence** (due to more consensus on gun-control legislature, and more households owning guns).
- iii. **Increased first-time-buyer gun sales** (helps earn support from the Administration, the NRA, and other representatives of gun owners, manufacturers, and sales too).
- iv. **Shift of emphasis from selling the most deadly weapons possible.** (Most gun owners already have so many guns, firearm marketing has been trying to sell the most lethal devices they can, rather than simply weapons for self defense they already had. By encouraging new customers, this amendment moves the emphasis on sales back to where it should be, on the basic need of self defense, as well as the pleasures of sports and hunting.)
- v. **New niche markets for firearm manufacturers.** (For example, weapons which can only fire less-than-lethal ammunition will appeal first-time buyers taking advantage of the tax credit, but not wanting to own lethal devices.

- vi. **Good likelihood of Presidential support** (via the first-gun tax credit, and the huge number of guns already in this nation, this amendment helps more people defend themselves from the large number of hostile aggressors who already have armed themselves. Also, see section 2).
- vii. **Ballot measure avoided for gun-violence tax.** As fewer households own guns than not, a ballot measure would be bound to support this amendment anyway.

2) SUPPORT OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND LOWER TAXES

2a) Poor families are in greater need of self protection than ever, but have trouble affording a gun. The proposed utilitarian methodology described here helps extend the Right to Bear Arms to all. With this amendment, those otherwise too poor to arm themselves in self defense receive rebate vouchers for their first-gun purchase (see subsections 3b~3c). Via the first-gun tax credit, all citizens not currently owning guns obtain the same benefit.

2b) Free-self defense firearms for the poor By recycling firearms purchased in the gun buyback program (see subsection 3a) into a federally certified self-defense firearm inventory, costs may be reduced sufficiently to support *free guns for the poor*. Providing first-gun government rebates for households below the poverty line would also undercut and help eliminate the market for illegal firearms.

2c) The excise tax puts the burden of protecting the rights of other citizens on those who insist on exercising the right to bear arms. Many citizens who don't own guns are resentful that legal exceptions to gun-control laws are continually being fought, making it likely they'll have to protect themselves by buying guns they don't really want. By putting the responsibility for gun violence on gun owners directly, gun owners will want its representatives to pass effective gun-control laws.

2c[i] 2nd Amendment rights of those shot to death are insufficiently protected. It's surprising no one has raised this paradox before, because it's rather obvious once stated. There is consensus from all three Supreme Court lawyers I've asked that this paradox justifies measures to protect the 2nd-Amendment rights of those who would otherwise be killed. Simply put, killing a man with a gun infringes on the dead man's right to bear arms.

2c[ii] Attorneys have objected that the Bill of Rights only constrains the Government. But that's not quite true. Authorities such as employers, landlords, etc. can also be sued for violating rights due to their positions of power. When someone shoots a victim to death, they have assumed authority over the victim's very life, thus entitling all such victims to Constitutional-right protection under the 2nd Amendment itself.

2c[iii] A few attorneys have objected that threats are criminal. Therefore, they say, the shot person has lost rights by breaking the law. However, in the USA, a person is presumed innocent until found guilty by a court. Being dead, the person can't stand trial, can't be found guilty, and therefore is still protected by Constitutional rights. The extent of the protection is really the question, but it's certainly enough for the government to enact laws which reduce gun violence, because the government is then taking authority over aggressors to stop them losing their own rights, among which, are the rights to bear arms.

3) NRA ENHANCEMENTS

3a) Preceding Federal Gun-Buyback Program. Gun owners should be able to remove registered firearms they don't wish to keep from their inventories, so they need not pay the gun excise tax for them.

The police, or other organization managing this gun-buyback program, should report the owner registrations for returned firearms to the Social Security Administration, for reduction of the gun excise tax to households. The

buyback program would reduce the huge number of guns in the nation, and again could be subsidized by the excise tax.

3b) Federal Low-Income First-Gun Voucher Program. Households with income below the poverty level could at first mail in a voucher after buying their first gun for self protection, A check could be mailed back, paid by income made by the Gun-Violence Tax, after checking against gun registration and tax records.

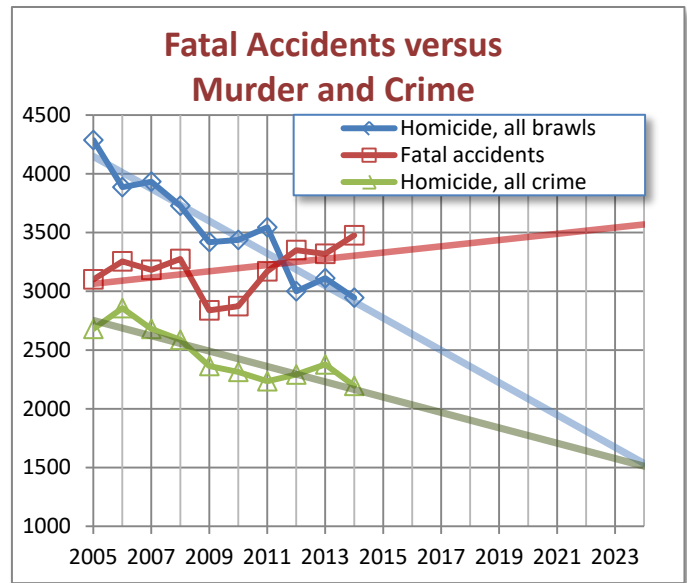
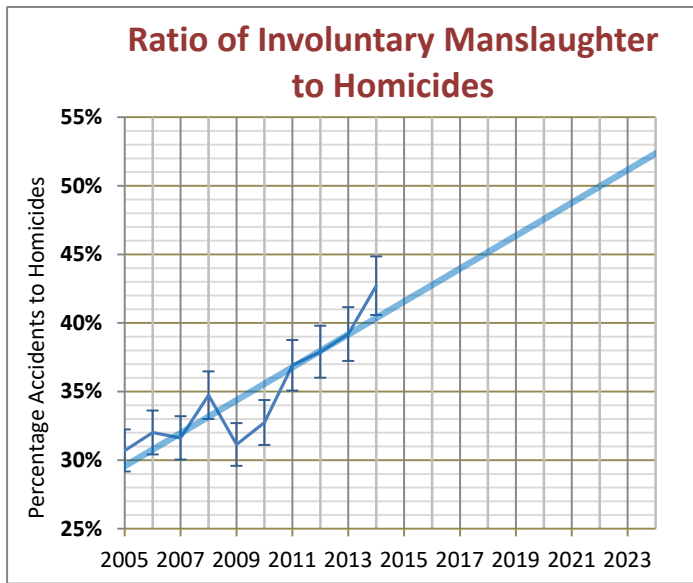
3c) NICS Upgrade with POS Rebate. This amendment includes funds for an upgrade to the NICS Background Check System so that it can be available in all states, reduce suicide by integration with public-health data, and provide instant rebates to low-income households, immediately upon purchasing their first firearm, at Point Of Sale.

3d) Mandatory Safety Training. Gun purchasers should be required to take federal-approved safety-training courses, unless they produce either records of prior training, or pass an exam for exemption.

3d[i]) Total fatal firearm accidents overtook homicides due to brawls in 2012. The left graph, below, shows the annual number of homicides from the two top categories of firearm fatality reported by the FBI, 'brawls' and 'crime,' as well as the total number of fatal accidents over the same timespan, 2005 to 2014. Fatal accidents were already more than all homicides due to crime, in 2005 (see Appendix subsection A4).

3d[ii]) The number of fatal firearm accidents exceeds gang homicides & mass shootings. See Appendix A, Table 6, for data substantiation.

3d[iii]) Fatal accidents from firearms will overtake ALL homicides in 2022. The right graph, below, adds the total annual homicides to the total fatal accidents and draws them as a ratio for each year, again with a decadal projection. It shows that >50% of the fatalities from the two causes will be due to fatal accidents next year, with a r-squared confidence ratio of 0.80. Due to delays from people not dying right away after being shot near the end of a year, the prediction will not be verifiable until 2024.



3e) NICS Integration with Public-Health Records. With the proposed NCIS update paid for by this tax, background checks could be expanded to include those at greatest risk of suicide, which is the greatest single cause of firearm fatality. While many mental-health records are private, public health and safety institutions could certainly provide alerts on those at risk to the NICS system.

4) Appendix A. Data Substantiation

A.1) ON THE DEDUCTION OF SPECIFIC TAX AMOUNTS

"The 9/16 Report: Firearm Casualties and Solutions" (Meyer, 2016) is the primary data source for this amendment. The 9/16 Report also contains over a dozen multi-dimensional graphs and several hundred annual population-growth-adjusted projections, as well as discussion of many gun-control and civil rights issues, with 150 references. The 9/16 Report's graphs and tables were drawn from a spreadsheet of >15,000 data points, derived from CDC and DOJ database queries in >100 categories over the most recent 14 years of data at the time of the 9/16 report's release. As a result of this study, the above recommendation for mandatory safety training was found to deserve special consideration.

A.1a) The particular excise tax amount of \$38. This was chosen such that it would pay off the entire estimated taxpayer expense of gun violence with registered guns, if no new guns were purchased for a year (as far as can be estimated from available data). It may be desired to increase the excise tax such it is guaranteed to provide all the funds needed to pay for gun violence.

A.1b) The particular first-gun tax credit amount of \$102. This was chosen such that the income from the excise tax would pay for the first-gun tax credit (or low-income voucher of the same amount) if all citizens not owning guns bought their first one within the first year. As the entire country is unlikely to take advantage of the tax credit within one year, the remainder is available to reduce federal and state taxes otherwise paying for gun violence.

A.2) GUN-VIOLENCE COST

A2a) Source for Total Gun-violence Cost This data, drawn from the "9/16 Report: Firearm Casualties and Solutions" (Meyer 2016) remains the most recent and most accurate estimate available from limited historical data, mostly due to the *Dickey Amendment* (Rostron, 2018). It determines gun-violence costs from estimates of legal, medical, and other costs from government, private, and University sources, combined with projections of current violence rates drawn from the CDC.

(A.2b) Gun-Violence Legal Costs. The National Center for Biotechnology Information (McCollister et al, 2011) compared legal costs from many studies for different kinds of crime. It found legal costs of \$8,982,907 per homicide in 2008 dollars. Table 1 cites it and other high-cost estimates for qualitative assessment, as well as results from prior studies dating back to 1993 (Cohen, 1988; Miller, 1993; Miller, 1996; Aos, 2001; Waters et al, 2011). Due to the high legal costs, virtually all legal expenditures are for federal and state and attorneys (Howell & Abraham, 2013).

	Aos <i>et al</i> , 2001	Cohen <i>et al</i> , 2004	Miller <i>et al</i> , 1993	Miller <i>et al</i> , 1996	McCollister, 2011
Murder	\$4,423,614	\$11,350,687	\$4,144,677	\$4,380,559	\$8,982,907
Rape, sexual assault	\$369,739	\$286,277	\$80,403	\$124,419	\$240,776
Assault	\$15,545	\$84,555	\$24,987	\$21,451	\$107,020
Robbery	\$219,286	\$280,237	\$33,036	\$18,591	\$42,310
Arson	-	-	\$41,900	\$53,629	\$21,163
Larceny/Theft	-	-	-	\$529	\$3,532
Motor Vehicle Theft	-	-	-	\$5,720	\$10,772
Burglary	-	\$30,197	-	\$2,145	\$6,462

(A.2c) Gun-Violence Medical Costs. Concerning direct hospital costs, the CDC only has fiscal data for 2010, and only reports direct medical costs (not including out-of-hospital costs and nonmedical-related disability payments). Its sum, \$45.2 billion/year, includes hospital costs of \$187 million for fatalities, \$853 million for

injuries, and \$44 billion for disability payments due to work loss (see Table 2). The American Health Association reported taxpayers pay an additional \$1.3 billion for lifetime support of injured gun victims (Tabachnick, 2013), Particularly because most firearm fatality victims have low incomes, public federal and state taxes pay between 52% and 85% of medical costs.

Table 2. Firearm Medical Costs, Fatality and Injury, CDC (2010)

Classification	# Events	Average Cost per Casualty			Total Cost			
		Medical	Work Loss	Combined	Medical	Work Loss	Combined	
Fatality	Unintentional	606	\$10,041	\$1,405,782	\$1,415,823	\$6,084,667	\$851,904,108	\$857,988,775
	Suicide	19,392	\$3,616	\$1,084,270	\$1,087,886	\$70,115,264	\$21,026,162,540	\$21,096,277,803
	Homicide	11,078	\$9,519	\$1,651,151	\$1,660,670	\$105,448,871	\$18,291,453,818	\$18,396,902,689
	Undetermined	252	\$8,892	\$1,365,508	\$1,374,400	\$2,240,800	\$344,108,061	\$346,348,861
	Legal Intervention	344	\$7,835	\$1,572,117	\$1,579,952	\$2,695,440	\$540,808,153	\$543,503,593
	Subtotal	31,672				\$186,585,042	\$41,054,436,679	\$41,241,021,722
Injury	Unintentional	5,956	\$20,894	\$82,069	\$10,2964	\$124,441,766	\$488,803,261	\$613,245,027
	Suicide	4,385	\$38,906	\$134,188	\$173,095	\$170,605,408	\$588,423,944	\$759,029,352
	Homicide	27,377	\$19,777	\$78,737	\$98,515	\$541,441,923	\$2,155,600,729	\$2,697,042,652
	Legal Intervention	848	\$19,319	\$72,373	\$91,692	\$16,376,973	\$61,352,338	\$77,729,311
		Subtotal	38,566				\$852,866,069	\$3,294,180,272
Grand Total						\$1,039,451,111	\$44,348,616,951	\$45,388,068,062

(A.2d) Other Gun-Violence Expenses. Those injured by guns often do not die right away, and many more are too incapacitated to work. Due to the State having to pay disability in almost all these cases, work loss is also a significant factor. There are very few sources for this data in the public domain. The Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) estimated that the total cost of a single-firearm death in 2010 was ~\$5.1 million, which included \$582,366 in government expenses. That generates a total annual cost of firearm fatalities of \$229 billion, which is more than 17 times that of the entire gun manufacturing-industry's billion annual revenue of \$13.1 billion (Miller 1993, U.S Department of Justice, 1996; Children's Safety Network, 2012; Brown, 2013; Miller, 2015; Moore, 2015). While that may seem high, it estimated the taxpayer share to be only \$582,366 per fatality, substantially lower than the above studies. The PIRE report estimated fatalities only; it did not include medical, legal, and other expenses from firearm injuries (see Table 3).

Table 3. Firearm Fatality Cost (PIRE)

	Total Costs	Taxpayer Costs
Work loss	\$1,600,000	-
Lost Tax Revenue	-	\$163,488
Medical Care	\$28,741	\$14,311
Mental Health	\$10,663	\$5,442
Emergency Transport	\$544	\$544
Police	\$2,119	\$2,119
Criminal Justice	\$395,211	\$395,211
Insurance Processing	\$2,361	\$1,810
Employer	\$9,980	-
Quality of Life	\$3,100,000	-
Total	\$5,100,000	\$582,366

A.2e) Total Gun-Violence Cost. Combining the above studies provides the estimate of taxpayer cost of gun fatalities and injuries for 2017 shown in Table 4. This finds a total taxpayer burden of \$16 billion, not including successful justified self defense and police action. This figure still exceeds the entire \$13.1 billion revenue of the firearm manufacturing industry in 2017.

Table 4. Projected Cost of Firearm Violence, 2017

	Average per Casualty			# incidents	Total, 2017	
	Medical	Work Loss	Taxpayer Cost		Medical	Taxpayer cost
Fatal accidents	\$10,041	\$1,405,782	\$143,643	3,376	\$33,898,416	\$484,938,109
Fatal Suicide	\$3,616	\$1,084,270	\$110,791	23,232	\$84,006,912	\$2,573,889,742
Fatal Homicide	\$9,519	\$1,651,151	\$168,715	7,397	\$70,412,043	\$1,247,981,964
non-fatal accidents	\$20,894	\$82,069	\$8,386	5,956	\$124,444,664	\$49,945,887
Non-fatal Suicide	\$38,906	\$134,188	\$13,711	4,385	\$170,602,810	\$60,124,181
Non-fatal assault	\$19,777	\$78,737	\$8,045	27,377	\$541,434,929	\$220,257,456
Taxpayer share of medical	(Low 52%, high 85%)			68.5%	\$370,882,926	\$4,637,137,339
Police costs			\$2,119	71,723		\$151,981,037
Legal costs			\$395,211	23,232		\$9,181,541,952
Insurance processing			\$1,810	71,723		\$129,818,630
emergency transport			\$544	71,723		\$39,017,312
Subtotal						\$14,510,379,196
Grand Total	With cumulative inflation since 2010 (10.4%):				\$16,019,458,633	

A.3) DERIVING TAX VALUES

To determine the cost per gun-owning household of gun violence, one also needs to know the total of guns, and the number of households owning guns.

A.3a) Total Number of Guns. A conservative estimate of the total number of guns in the USA is 270 million (Sanchez, 2015). Estimates range up to 350 million. The total number of approved background checks has increased from 8,886,240 in 2005 to 20,877,652 in 2014 (per FBI data), and has been increasing significantly over the last few years. However, this does not really indicate the total number of guns in ownership. In 2004, a Gallup poll showed 31% of gun owners have only one gun, and 29% have five or more guns (Carlson, 2004), but the number has been increasing.

A.3b) Total Households with Guns. A recent survey of 4,000 adults found that one third of Americans reported owning a gun (Kalesan et al., 2015; Ehrenfreund and Goldfarb, 2015). Another 2015 study, funded by the National Science Foundation, corroborated the results, specifying that 32% of households own guns, with an average of 8.1 guns (CBS News, 2015; Ingraham, 2015). These trends indicate 8.2 guns in 33% of households for 2017. With 124.2 million households, that places the annual taxpayer cost at \$45 per gun, or \$122 for each tax-paying household.

A.3c) Exclusion of gun-violence costs from illegal firearms. It would be counterproductive to expect that registered gun owners pay for gun violence with illegal guns. A frequent rebuttal of this recommendation is that gun-control legislation won't save any lives, because criminals use illegal guns anyway (Greenberg, 2015). However, the vast majority of firearm fatalities are with legal guns, whatever the case as to the number of crimes committed with illegal guns. The confusion arises because of many reports that most guns used in street crimes are illegal (Fabio, 2016; Ingraham, 2016), not taking into account other forms of firearm casualties. On the other side of the coin, one study indicated there are far less than 30 illegal guns for every 100,000 gun owners in the USA (Sandy Hook Project, 2014). Others indicate that between 3% and 10% of all guns owned by known criminals are illegal (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2013; Wright et al, 1994; Cook et al, 2015). However, conservatives continue to complain that the DOJ study is two decades old, and that current supporting estimates are from liberal sources. Therefore, the excise tax is therefore reduced by 20%, doubling the maximum estimate amount of 10% from all sources.

A.3d) Excise tax and tax-credit derivation. The U.S Department of Justice estimated that taxpayers pay 90% of gun-violence costs (1996). This is because most people maimed or killed by guns cannot afford to pay the resulting expenses themselves. Hence per this data, the 2017 taxpayer cost of gun violence was \$14.6 billion.

Therefore, assuming gun-violence cost has not increased since, and a 10% overhead for administration, the specific amounts of the gun excise tax and first-gun tax credit are in Table 5:

Annual taxpayer cost of gun violence	\$16,019,458,633
Deduction for incidents with illegal guns	\$3,293,891,727
Adjusted taxpayer cost	\$12,815,566,906
2017 population	328,131,072
Average # residents/household	2.6
# households	124,204,258
Gun Violence Tax Credit	\$101.55
Percentage Households with guns	32%
#guns per household	8.2
Gun Violence Tax per Gun	\$37.53

A4) DATA TABLES

Table 6 provides a subset of the 15,000 data points built for the 9/16 report.

A4a) Methodology. The CDC WISQARS and WONDER and FBI databases provided the top-level data. For forward projections, the trends were almost perfectly linear over the last decade of known data for larger numbers, so best-fit linear projections were generated from least-square approximations for each annual value, after adjusting for annual population-growth variance around the average 0.87% national population-growth rate. For homicide causes, some FBI breakouts were too small to produce reliable R^2 values, so were aggregated into 8 subgroups, then unsolved cases and suspected felonies for each year were distributed into the 8 subgroups proportionally. The FBI does not provide breakout data on weapon choice by victim relationship, so the FBI’s ‘homicide by relationship’ reports were scaled down by the ratio of those using firearms in the FBI ‘weapons-choice’ reports. The cases where the victim relationship was known but cause unknown were again distributed into the 8 cause groups proportionally, and the data for three kinship groups—family; friends and acquaintances (‘friends’); and strangers—were convoluted with the 8 cause-group data sets to provide indication of the extent strangers are a threat.

A4b) Gun Safety Data. For accidental deaths, the firearm deaths reported to the CDC which were handed to the FBI and not judged to be homicide are included as involuntary manslaughter and added to firearm accidents deemed to be undeniably accidents by the CDC. With thanks to Dr. Garen Wintemute for review of gun-safety data (Meyer, 2015).

A.4c) Analytical Data. The right-most columns and graphs provide:

- **Delta (Δ)** – The average change in value each year for the best-fit linear projection.
- **σ ERR** – The standard error of deviation, indicating the range around the best-fit linear trend in which two thirds of the annual sample values are falling.
- **R2** – The coefficient of determination, a measure of statistical reliability, between 0 and 1. Higher numbers are better. Values below 0.2 are considered unreliable (and are marked in red in color copies of this document).

Table 6. Firearm Casualties, 2001 ~2014

Category	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Δ	σ _{err}	R ²
TOP LEVEL																	
Population (Millions)	284.97	287.63	290.11	292.81	295.52	298.38	301.23	304.09	306.77	308.11	310.50	312.86	315.18	317.68	2.523	2.0	0.99
Population variance	-0.168%	-0.118%	-0.132%	-0.070%	-0.006%	0.107%	0.214%	0.323%	0.372%	-0.014%	-0.056%	-0.108%	-0.172%	-0.177%	0.780%	0.07	0.01
All assault injuries	1,777M	1,674M	1,640M	1,719M	1,661M	1,670M	1,550	1,620M	1,546M	1,788M	1,772M	1,723M	1,644M	1,558M	+3,376	28,240	0.01
Firearm, all injuries	63,012	58,841	65,834	64,389	68,825	71,147	69,863	78,622	66,769	73,505	73,883	81,396	84,258	81,034	+1,555	1,921	0.60
Firearm, assault injuries	41,044	37,321	42,505	43,592	50,320	52,748	48,676	56,626	44,466	53,738	55,544	59,077	62,220	60,470	+1,328	1,773	0.51
Firearm, accidental injuries	17,696	17,579	18,941	16,555	15,388	14,678	15,698	17,215	18,610	14,161	14,675	17,362	16,864	15,928	+105	442	0.05
Suicides, all fatalities	30,622	31,655	31,484	32,439	32,637	33,000	34,598	36,035	36,609	38,364	39,518	40,600	41,149	42,773	+1,168	1,123	0.99
Suicides by firearm	16,869	17,108	16,907	16,750	17,002	16,883	17,352	18,223	18,735	19,392	19,990	20,666	21,175	21,334	+562	544	0.98
ALL FIREARM FATALITIES	29,573	30,242	30,136	29,569	30,694	30,896	31,224	31,593	31,347	31,672	32,351	33,563	33,636	33,599	+373	377	0.90
Accidents	3,427	3,238	3,022	2,889	3,101	3,258	3,189	3,294	2,848	2,873	3,168	3,356	3,313	3,470	+27	64	0.16
Fatal accidents	3,427	3,238	3,022	2,889	3,101	3,258	3,189	3,294	2,848	2,873	3,168	3,356	3,313	3,470	+27	64	0.16
Ratio accidents to homicides	39.3%	34.6%	31.4%	31.0%	30.7%	32.0%	31.6%	34.7%	31.1%	32.7%	36.9%	37.9%	39.2%	42.7%	+1.2%	1.0	0.80
Fatal mistakes in self defense	445	460	494	413	358	467	491	533	523	574	508	640	552	557	+19	24	0.60
All Justified Homicides	558	527	569	604	491	578	597	592	618	632	610	686	694	671	+18	19	0.82
Self Defense	183	189	203	170	147	192	202	219	215	236	209	263	227	229	+8	10	0.60
Police	375	338	366	434	344	386	395	373	403	396	401	423	467	442	+10	11	0.78
Homicides	13,752	14,054	14,408	14,121	14,965	15,087	14,816	14,224	13,636	13,164	12,795	12,888	12,253	11,961	-366	357	0.97
All firearm (exc. Justified)	8,719	9,369	9,638	9,326	10,100	10,177	10,086	9,484	9,146	8,583	8,583	8,855	8,454	8,124	-233	76	0.92
All Homicides not caused by felonious-crime ("Brawls")	6,376	6,837	6,940	6,847	7,420	7,318	7,041	6,882	6,773	6,461	6,350	6,560	6,081	5,933	-168	54	0.92
All Brawls	3,704	3,780	4,022	4,043	4,286	3,890	3,942	3,750	3,431	3,436	3,542	3,005	3,106	2,940	-138	46	0.91
All family brawls	1,113	1,070	1,146	1,144	1,220	1,101	1,103	1,081	1,024	1,079	1,090	1,007	1,096	1,010	-14	7.0	0.45
All 'friend' brawls	1,812	1,918	2,126	2,096	2,191	2,061	2,101	2,021	1,812	1,715	1,852	1,549	1,588	1,445	-81	25	0.91
All stranger brawls	778	791	751	803	875	728	737	648	595	642	601	448	422	485	-43	16	0.87
Money/property brawl	197	200	239	248	247	206	197	183	178	176	172	145	131	132	-6.71	2.19	0.94
Brawl due to alcohol	102	108	87	98	87	80	76	71	71	86	83	53	76	62	-1.04	0.61	0.30
Romantic triangle	123	137	93	106	128	103	107	93	81	92	94	93	78	93	-1.84	0.95	0.48
Brawl due to narcotics	120	97	51	96	103	44	60	77	101	45	139	49	55	54	-0.96	2.20	0.02
Other arguments	3,161	3,237	3,553	3,495	3,721	3,458	3,502	3,325	3,000	3,037	3,054	2,664	2,765	2,598	-69.64	21.75	0.98
All Gangs	1,237	1,418	1,408	1,345	1,332	1,472	1,154	1,260	1,326	1,279	1,067	1,355	1,099	1,122	-25	15	0.33
All family gangs	5	2	6	5	5	5	2	1	0	8	13	6	4	0	+0.07	0.43	0.00
All 'friend' gangs	692	678	705	714	527	741	497	706	656	667	410	655	604	512	-7	12	0.04
All stranger gangs	539	738	697	626	801	726	655	553	670	604	644	694	492	610	-18	10	0.38
Gangland killings	96	103	164	139	145	181	121	183	256	261	246	223	194	215	+5	3	0.27
Juvenile gang killings	1,140	1,315	1,244	1,206	1,187	1,291	1,033	1,077	1,070	1,018	820	1,132	906	907	-22	11	0.49
All mass shootings	67	44	80	32	85	73	209	102	230	140	145	343	142	246	+16	9	0.33
Family mass shootings	16	10	19	8	20	16	48	25	58	37	38	86	38	68	+5	2.0	0.44
'Friend' mass shootings	32	21	39	16	40	37	101	50	111	66	70	165	71	115	+8	5.0	0.33
Stranger mass shootings	19	13	21	9	26	20	60	27	61	38	37	92	33	63	+4	3.0	0.24
All other murder	1,369	1,595	1,430	1,427	1,717	1,882	2,097	1,770	1,786	1,606	1,596	1,858	1,733	1,625	-22	17	0.20
Family, other murder	494	598	529	526	619	628	714	636	722	647	643	532	525	556	-13	7.0	0.36
'Friend,' other murder	599	705	610	607	671	871	889	721	701	670	662	798	814	732	-3	10	0.01
Stranger, other murder	275	292	290	294	426	383	494	413	363	289	290	528	394	337	-6	9	0.05
Child killed by babysitter	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	3	0	3	+0.11	0.10	0.13
Institutional killings	0	2	2	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	-0.04	0.08	0.02
Sniper attack	9	17	3	2	3	3	2	6	2	5	2	2	10	5	+0.18	0.19	0.11
Other non-felony	1,359	1,577	1,425	1,426	1,712	1,875	2,095	1,763	1,780	1,599	1,594	1,853	1,723	1,615	-16.91	11.30	0.25
All Homicides caused by Felonious Crime	2,343	2,532	2,698	2,479	2,680	2,859	2,685	2,602	2,373	2,314	2,233	2,295	2,373	2,191	-65	24	0.77
("Crime")	1,289	1,345	1,404	1,368	1,305	1,349	1,298	1,323	1,163	1,128	1,082	992	1,041	908	-48	15	0.91
All Robbery & theft	48	37	36	50	48	43	25	30	55	33	39	32	46	46	+0.3	1	0.01
Family robbery & theft	48	37	36	50	48	43	25	30	55	33	39	32	46	46	+0.3	1	0.01
'Friend' robbery & theft	425	436	474	425	381	458	382	450	419	365	410	349	408	299	-8	4	0.30
Stranger robbery & theft	816	872	894	893	876	848	892	843	690	730	633	611	587	563	-40	13	0.91
Robbery	1,196	1,231	1,269	1,234	1,180	1,246	1,182	1,199	1,033	1,003	971	875	921	783	-32.43	10.21	0.89
Burglary	62	86	88	71	86	81	96	100	101	82	91	94	89	87	-0.26	0.49	0.03
Larceny-theft	14	14	27	20	14	13	8	7	16	18	9	5	10	21	+0.10	0.30	0.01
Motor vehicle theft	16	14	19	43	25	10	12	17	13	25	11	17	21	17	+0.05	0.39	0.00
Narcotics crime	686	854	917	765	844	1,021	856	694	690	650	559	539	562	517	-49	18	0.81
Family, narcotics	13	15	29	21	13	17	11	17	12	12	7	16	12	12	-0.3	0.38	0.06
'Friend,' narcotics	504	645	690	562	647	783	652	503	528	452	422	425	457	386	-37	14	0.75
Stranger, narcotics	169	194	198	182	184	221	193	174	150	186	130	98	93	119	-12	5	0.75
Sex related	14	11	16	8	22	13	15	3	3	7	5	12	15	21	+0.02		

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Appendix C. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am Ernest Meyer (Chico, CA), 59 years old. I studied Philosophy & Psychology at Corpus Christi, Oxford University. For 30 years I worked for companies like Apple, AT&T, Intel, and Oracle in systems engineering specification. I've been working privately in gun-control issues since 2015. In 2016, President Obama quoted me on TV on 'the dead had rights too' (see Obama's YouTube link in the references). Seattle, Los Angeles, and Connecticut have consulted me on their local gun-violence taxes. However, as people can simply buy arms elsewhere, the tax really has to be national, for which reason I formulated this Amendment.