

Testimony of Dianna Muller

FOUNDER OF WOMEN FOR GUN RIGHTS

United States House of Representatives
House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance

March 4, 2025

Thank you for inviting me to discuss self-defense and the role of the 2nd Amendment. For decades now, gun control advocates push for more laws and more restrictions. It's time to look at the evidence and acknowledge the truth. Guns save lives and control laws do not produce the desired results. It's time to elevate the conversation with alternative solutions that have proven to save lives.

The truth is we all want the same thing. We all want to be safe and for our families to be safe. The difference is how we believe that is achieved. For over 30 years, all of the strictest gun control policies have been adopted by several major cities across the country. The results are the same: more crime, more lawlessness and people are less safe because them. Based on years of evidence in cities like Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Chicago, and Detroit, it's apparent that these policies simply do not work. Criminals are emboldened and crime soars. If these policies worked, these cities would be the shining example of their success. Instead they are the most violent and crime plagued.

We always hear about 'common sense' gun control.

- Common sense is that cities like Detroit, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, should adopt the laws of cities that ARE NOT plagued with violence. It is an injustice for the rest of the country to adopt the failed policies of cities that ARE plagued with violence.
- Common sense is that when you make more rules, more laws, more registrations, more fees, that it makes protecting yourself a rich man's game. These policies disproportionately effect lower income, minority communities. The Second Amendment is for every American, and gun control is steeped in racism.
- Common sense is holding criminals accountable for breaking the laws, instead of releasing them jail, raising bail for them to get out of jail, or encouraging them to be 'more confrontational'.
- Common sense is that women are smaller and less equipped for violence and a firearm is the great equalizer.
- Common sense is allowing citizens to protect themselves.

Responsible gun owners are exhausted of the incessant attacks on the Second Amendment. I founded the *Women for Gun Rights*, because we were tired of listening to women who don't represent us, women who are not experts in guns or violence, demand that legislators restrict our constitutional rights.

I am honored to represent the members of the Women for Gun Rights: mothers, daughters, young and old, Black, White, Latino and Asian, hunters and competitors, transgender and straight, #metoo and #notme, on the political left and right. The Second Amendment wins on the intersectionality scale. For example:

- Lara Smith, from California, is a staunch Democrat and the National Spokesperson for the Liberal Gun Club and understands that the Second Amendment is a constitutional, not a partisan, issue;

- Mia Farinelli, from Virginia, is a 21-year-old 3-gun competitive shooter that stands 5'4", weighs 85 pounds; an honor roll student that speaks two languages and is learning a third;
- Robyn Sandoval, from Texas, is left-leaning, reformed anti-gun mom who now heads up A Girl and a Gun, a nationwide women's shooting club;
- Gina Roberts, from California, is a transgender woman who knows the Second Amendment is for everyone;
- Corinne Mosher, from Nebraska, is a concert violinist turned tactical firearms instructor and takes keeping her family safe seriously;
- Amanda Johnson, from Florida, was raped at gun point on a gun-free campus, yards from the police station; even though she had a concealed carry license, she left it at home because she wanted to follow the rules. Her attacker went on to rape and kill his next victim. Amanda is confident she could have made a difference in both of their outcomes if she had not been disarmed.
- Lucretia Hughes, from Georgia, is an African American who strongly advocates for the 2nd Amendment, in part, because she lost her son to gang violence when a felon used an illegally obtained gun to shoot him in the head;
- Gabby Franco, from Virginia, is a mom and a naturalized citizen from **Venezuela** who has seen the effects of gun control in her native country; she will tell you about the decline of Venezuela. In 1998, it was the richest Latin American country, until Hugo Chavez was elected and enacted robust gun-control with the promise of reducing gun violence. His regulations created a choke hold that forced gun shops and ranges to close. Ammunition became scarce and expensive. Within ten years of registering all firearms, the banning of private gun ownership began while criminals remained armed and dangerous. Registration led to confiscation. Now citizens live at the mercy of criminals and the government. Small businesses have been destroyed and people stopped working. Production stopped and inflation made everyday goods unattainable or unavailable. Citizens live like prisoners in their homes since criminals have no fear of accountability. Venezuela is in chaos; a socialist nightmare. Gabby is committed to not letting that happen in America.
- Kristi McMains, from Indiana, vigorously fought off a stranger's attack in a parking garage for several minutes before getting to her gun and shooting the assailant. She fought so hard she broke all ten nails, had fibers in her teeth from his gloves, and broken ribs.
- Melissa Schuster, from Illinois, was brutally beaten, stabbed 17 times, raped and left for dead in her parent's home when a stranger kicked in the door. She will never be unarmed again.
- Nikki Goeser, from Tennessee, her husband was shot and killed by her stalker in a gun-free zone, while her permitted firearm remained in her vehicle, like the good, law abiding citizen she is.
- Mira O'Connell was asleep when a serial rapist broke into her home with a firearm. She fought, gained possession of the gun, shot him three times and ran out of the house thinking it was a fake gun because of auditory exclusion, a physiological response to acute stress. He died in the hallway. The firearm that was meant to harm her saved her life.

DEFENSIVE USE OF FIREARMS:

According to the government's own 2013 CDC study, data estimates between 500,000 times to 3 million times per year firearms save lives. You can't find the link to that study anymore, because it was purged from the CDC website at the demand of the gun control lobby.

Aren't those lives saved worth as much as the lives that have been taken by criminal homicide? Gun control laws sound good, but do nothing to prevent criminals from committing crimes and often cost responsible gun owners their lives or subject them to trauma by not being able to defend themselves. Guns save lives.

If you advocate for gun control, you do so from a place a privilege. You must be insulated for the perils of the world if you don't understand the role firearms play in keeping people safe. You surround yourselves in the Capitol with a people with guns to protect you, but the majority of our countrymen do not have that luxury. Every day in this very building, you are surrounded and protected by men and women with firearms.

RESULTS OF FIREARMS EDUCATION:

As an instructor, I've had the honor of introducing many people, especially women, to firearms training. I've witnessed many women go through amazing transformations. Their self-confidence is palatable. I had one woman who was terrified at the beginning of class and at the end, she looked me in the eye, took a hold of my shoulders and said, "You have changed my life. I. Am. A. Different. Person." I see it time and time again how a little education can go a long way!

While I fully appreciate you considering my testimony, you could get a better appreciation of the importance our community places on and the safe handling and operation of firearms if you were to come to the range.

JUSTICE SYSTEM:

As a police officer, I enforced the laws you created and I had a front row seat to the justice system. It's frustrating to see the revolving door where prosecutors reduce or drop charges and judges give minimal sentencing.

I find it ironic in an effort to reform the criminal justice system, that the previous administration took steps to be lenient on people who have actually committed crimes AGAINST LAWS YOU CREATED, while at the same time proposing more laws, that turn ordinary, law-abiding citizens into criminals. I submit that we hold people accountable for the laws that are already on the books before we pass any further legislation, that would only be a burden on the law-abiding. I'm encouraged with the new administration upholding our laws and making our communities safer.

Remember, police have no duty to protect (Warren v. District of Columbia) and these days they can't even protect themselves. Citizens are their own first responder.

MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS:

We are here to talk about policies that will save lives. I was a police officer for 22 years. I have been a firearms instructor for over 30 years. I have been a professional shooter for the past 15 years. I am an expert on firearms safety and I've seen my fair share of the violence. I commend the majority for highlighting the positive attributes of firearms ownership and willingness to have true experts in the field speak on such matters. I would also to point out that the firearms industry places a lot of attention on safety and have many effective programs.

- The Hunter's Education program has proven successful by exponentially lowering firearms accidents/fatalities. When Colorado implemented hunter's education, fatal accidents were cut in half and non-fatal were substantially decreased. The program only continues to prove its value in saving lives as the rates continued to drop to the lowest to date. [link](#) Here is more information on Hunter's Education. [link](#)
- The Kid S.A.F.E. (Safety Around Firearms Education) Foundation takes the target audience a step further and focuses on all children, not just hunters. Originating in Oregon, the program is ready to go nationwide. Reaching children in urban areas that have a higher mortality rate, or children with English as a second language is imperative. We should be treating firearm safety similar to water safety. Link to child causes of death <https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/phy7b.asp> Every kid in the country should be trained, with or without guns in their homes. Zero firearms accidents is the only acceptable goal. Let's teach our youth safety, discipline, and respect for firearms at a young age kids when kids are more likely to follow rules. <https://kidssafefoundation.org>
- FASTER Saves Lives is a school security programs. Created by concerned parents, law enforcement, and nationally recognized safety and medical experts, FASTER is a groundbreaking, non-profit program that gives educators practical violence response training at no cost to the school districts. <https://fastersaveslives.org/about-us/>
- Suicide makes up over 50% of gun deaths. Hold My Guns, Walk the Talk America, Rachel's Challenge, Active Heroes, Mission 22 are among the long list of organizations that partner or stem from the firearms community. National Shooting Sports Foundation partners with American Foundation of Suicide Prevention to provide resources and support to firearms retailers and ranges.
- National Train a Teacher Day offers free firearms safety training to teachers.
- Encourage training and empower citizens to be prepared, not scared. Non-lethal training includes situational awareness, flashlight training, and defensive fighting styles, as well as first aid training like 'stop the bleed'. Tourniquets are lightweight, easy to carry and easy to use. It's the modern-day CPR training and there's no reason every American shouldn't know how to use it and have one within reach!

None of these programs are from the NRA. Although I would like to point out that the NRA is the oldest civil rights organization and has been instrumental in firearms education over the years. I am the NRA. I am NOT the enemy. Millions of responsible American gun owners are NOT the enemy.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Our national mental health infrastructure was decimated in the 1970's. Long term facilities across the country were closed and those patients were turned out into the street¹. During my years as a police officer, it was always a problem trying to find a bed or access to inpatient or outpatient treatment. Bed availability and insurance/cost was always a hurdle to those that needed help and wanted help. Reports indicate that 10% of homicides, higher for mass killings, 20% of prison inmates and 30% of homeless involve mental illness².

One of the most overlooked yet critical factors in the rise of mass violence is the widespread use of pharmaceutical drugs, particularly antidepressants, benzodiazepines, and stimulants. These medications, many of which carry black box warnings for increased risk of suicidal and homicidal thoughts, have been prescribed at unprecedented rates, with over 40 million Americans currently on antidepressants. Studies have shown that these drugs can induce medically induced psychosis, suppress natural fear responses, and amplify aggression, especially when combined with stimulants like Adderall or testosterone therapies. The Nashville school shooter, Audrey Hale, was known to have been under psychiatric care, yet the proper drug screenings were never conducted, leaving critical questions unanswered. The real epidemic is not responsible gun ownership—it's the unchecked influence of Big Pharma, whose drugs have been a common denominator in countless acts of mass violence. Instead of disarming law-abiding citizens, we should be questioning why these dangerous medications are being handed out so freely without long-term studies on their psychological effects.

Independent studies would be welcomed. The Dickie Amendment did not prevent government from studying guns, it prevented public monies from promoting gun control.

- Study the effects of kids on medication in correlation to violent behavior.
- Study the effects of violent video games that desensitizes the horror and glorifies killing for points in correlation to violent behavior.
- Study how guns save lives.

If safety is truly your goal, I'm eager to work with any of you, in bipartisan way, to support and fund these programs. But if disarming America and fundraising off of tragedy is more important, then I won't expect to hear from you. I'm here to save lives. Women for Gun Rights members are available as a resource to all of you. We will meet, talk, train, whatever we can do to achieve safety in our communities through education, not legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I look forward to your questions.

¹ <https://www.heritage.org/firearms/report/part-ii-the-consequences-deinstitutionalizing-the-severely-mentally-ill>

² <https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/02/28/closing-mental-institutions-made-us-vulnerable-mass-shootings/>