

MATTHEW HOY

MARCH 5, 2016 4:06 PM

Sacramento goes on an anti-gun crusade

HIGHLIGHTS

San Bernardino terrorist attack spurs more gun control legislation

Proposed laws wouldn't have stopped San Bernardino killings, or any other murder

Lawmakers want to make it difficult to exercise Second Amendment rights



BY MATTHEW HOY

In December, less than 24 hours after two terrorists massacred 14 Americans and wounded 22 others at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, Sen. Barbara Boxer took the microphone at a Capitol Hill news conference where Democrats were announcing plans to introduce new gun control laws.

“Sensible gun laws work. We’ve proven it in California,” [Boxer said](#).

Tell that to the 14 killed just the day before with legally acquired handguns and two rifles that had also been purchased legally but illegally transferred to the terrorists and illegally modified by them.

Tell that to Cal Poly graduate Kate Steinle, murdered by an illegal immigrant who had seven felony convictions and had been deported five times. The gun used to murder Steinle was [stolen from the car of a U.S. Bureau of Land Management ranger](#). (San Francisco responded to this tragedy by passing a law that requires firearms to be in a locked container within the vehicle cabin or in the trunk — and then [exempted law enforcement from the requirement](#).)

Despite the obvious fact that there really is no law politicians can pass to stop criminals intent on doing evil — mass murder is already illegal; they can’t make it illegaler — your betters in Sacramento have decided to do something.

More laws are something, even if they are stupid and useless:

[AB 1663](#), [AB 1664](#) and [SB 880](#): These bills are an attempt to further regulate scary black rifles.

[AB 1663](#) and [SB 880](#) redefine “assault weapon” to include just about any semi-automatic, centerfire rifle made since the 19th century and require you to register them with the state.

[AB 1664](#) would outlaw the [bullet button](#), a device that requires the use of a tool in order to change magazines in a rifle. In most states, you can change a magazine in a rifle by simply pressing a button with your finger. In California, that’s illegal if the gun has a pistol grip (or other cosmetic features) like the typical modern sporting rifle has. Lawmakers wanted to make it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to change magazines, and the bullet button does just that.

Unfortunately, it doesn’t make it difficult enough. Therefore, we have yet another law despite the fact that murders are committed more often with knives, fists and clubs than with rifles of any kind.

[AB 1674](#) would extend the current limit on handgun purchases — one in 30 days — to all types of firearms and remove the private-party transfer exemption to the limit.

While the entire bill is an affront to the Second Amendment, the PPT exemption is especially stupid. For example, if someone bequeathed an extensive firearm collection to you, it could take years for the estate to be disposed of, as only 12 guns per year could be transferred to you — longer if you actually wanted to buy new firearms.

If lawmakers attempted to limit purchases of books to no more than one a month, First Amendment defenders would be outraged, and such a law would be quickly ruled unconstitutional. A similar limit on the Second Amendment should provoke similar outrage.

[AB 1798](#) makes it illegal to have a gun-shaped cellphone case. This is a thing?

[SB 1037](#) would require people moving into the state (and really, what gun owner would *want* to do that?) to turn all of their guns over to a federal firearms licensee and undergo a background check to get their guns back. Mix this one with the removal of the PPT exception to the 1-in-30 rule, and members of the military transferred to a base in California may not get all their guns back before they’re transferred to another duty station in another state.

[SB 1446](#) would make magazines that *look* like they can hold more than 10 rounds, even though they can’t, illegal. It would also effectively ban many semi-automatic handguns, since many 9 mm and .40 handgun magazines are designed to hold more than 10 rounds in their default configuration, but are “blocked” to only 10 to be sold in California.

All of these bills have one thing in common: There isn’t a single murder they would have prevented. Not one.

Lawmakers want to make it harder and harder for citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights in this state. Their goal is to make it as difficult as possible to own a gun and not break some obscure and arbitrary law so your guns can be confiscated.

They dream of a place where only criminals have guns and all gun owners are criminals.

Empty gestures and useless posturing are what our state Legislature does best, and our ever-more-draconian gun control laws are evidence of that.

Conservative columnist Matthew Hoy is a former reporter, editor and page designer. You can read his blog at [Hoystory.com](#) and follow him on Twitter [@hoystory](#). His column appears in The Tribune every other Sunday, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks.

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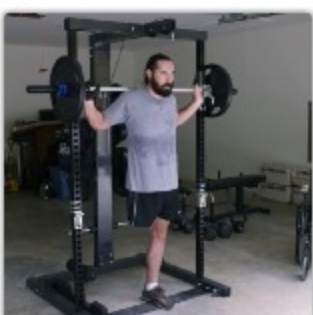
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Donald Ingram · San Diego Community College-Miramar

This is the most pathetic state within the United States. These idiots in the state of California have no one to blame but themselves when crime sky rockets after they take away your right to own a gun. The idiots of California keep voting these dead beat politicians into office who keeps giving away free money to the bums and illegals because they do not want to work. Yep, this state is on a downward spiral and it will not stop until we get these money hungry politicians out of office and we put someone in that will restore our rights under the constitution.

Like · Reply · Mar 10, 2016 4:38pm · Edited



Samantha Walker · Yuba City, California

Remember an America that is full of well armed Law Bidding Citizens , is Americans true Dept. of Homeland Security !

Like · Reply · Mar 8, 2016 10:11pm



Jason Perry

WHen are the Citizens of Kalifornia going to revolt and take back their state?

Like · Reply · 1 · Mar 8, 2016 5:27am



Frank Clarke · Rabble-rousing at Retired

What people like Boxer don't realize -- or ignore if they DO realize -- is that incidents like San Bernardino are diffuse incidents. They're unpredictable and random. A focused, institutional solution will NEVER be able to cope with such events. The only plausible solution -- and it's a diffuse solution like the problem -- is the one that Boxer and her ilk will not admit: a large, well-armed population of law-abiding citizens.

How long before this lesson sinks in to the idiots who keep re-electing her, I wonder?

Like · Reply · 2 · Mar 7, 2016 2:28pm



Rich Flay

Amen! I've been saying for years that an armed citizenry is the answer to every day violent crime as well as incidents like the one in San Bernardino.

Like · Reply · Mar 8, 2016 11:53am



Rich Seibert

Marxist and Islamists who infect our federal government plus the media whores who protect them will gleefully lie, falsify, fabricate, slander, libel, deceive, delude, bribe, and treasonably betray the free citizens of the United States..

Second Amendment foes lying about gun control - Firearms are our constitutionally mandated safeguard against tyranny by a powerful federal government. Only dictators, tyrants, despots, totalitarians, and those who want to control and ultimately to enslave you support gun control.

No matter what any president, senator, congressman, or hard-left mainstream me... See More

Like · Reply · 3 · Mar 7, 2016 5:45am



John Cajdos · School Of Hard Knocks, University Of Life

Well written piece. Too bad the Nervous Nellies don't have the common sense to see the faulty logic of the knee jerk politicians in Sacramento.

Like · Reply · 1 · Mar 6, 2016 7:17am



Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios

Pro-gun, anti-gun, laws or no laws, yada yada yada....The only thing that matters to the NRA at the end of the day is that with every massacre gun sales go through the roof.

Like · Reply · Mar 5, 2016 4:57pm · Edited



Rich Flay

Because the NRA sells guns? Not that I've ever seen.

Like · Reply · 1 · Mar 8, 2016 11:58am



Donald Ingram · San Diego Community College-Miramar

Jay,
You are such an idiot, you have no clue to what you are talking about. Stop listening to the liberal media and do your own research on what the NRA really stands for. The NRA has programs to teach our young children on firearm safety, they firearms programs for law enforcement personnel just to name a few. So Jay, again, before you start running your mouth, do your resarch before you put your foot in your mouth. By the way Jay, the NRA does not sell guns, they protect our gun rights.

Like · Reply · 1 · Mar 10, 2016 4:37pm · Edited



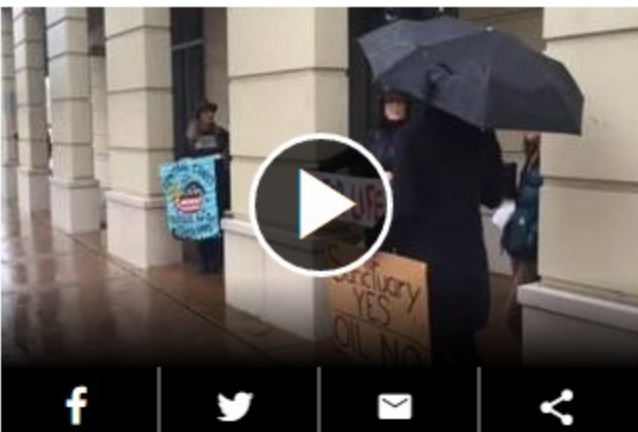
SiORolling

Well written.

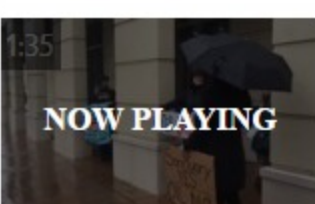
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ABOUT MATTHEW HOY



Matthew Hoy, a conservative, is a San Diego-area native and 1994 graduate of Cal Poly's journalism program. He spent 15 years at various newspapers along the West Coast, including The Lompoc Record, The Daily World in Aberdeen, Wash., The North County Times in Escondido and The San Diego Union-Tribune. For 15 years, Hoy has written a blog on politics and the media, Hoystory.com. Hoy's column will be published in The Tribune every other week, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks.

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