

MATTHEW HOY

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Finally, some pushback against Sacramento’s ‘war’ on guns



Matthew Hoy **David Middlecamp** - dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com

BY MATTHEW HOY

Even if you’ve been closely following the Olympics on TV, you probably missed seeing Californian Kim Rhode win the bronze medal in skeet shooting. With that medal, Rhode became the first woman to [win a medal in six consecutive Olympics](#).

Rhode’s story is one that would typically earn her a five-minute-long human-interest feature in the wall-to-wall coverage from NBC. Rhode won her first medal in 1996 at the age of 17 in double trap.

Now the mother of a 3-year-old son, Rhode competed at London (where she won the gold) in 2012 while pregnant. She was bedridden the final four months of her pregnancy and had a difficult recovery afterward — unable to lift anything weighing more than 5 pounds. To return for the Rio Games took a lot of hard work.

Instead, mostly silence.

Don’t expect to see Rhode on a Wheaties box, or any other general consumer products. If you go into a gun store or sporting goods store, you might be lucky to find her picture on a box of shotgun ammunition.

She’s one of the most decorated female Olympians no one’s ever heard about.

But California legislators have thought long and hard about residents like Rhode, and they’ve decided that they don’t like them.

This summer, the Legislature passed, and Gov. Jerry Brown signed, a [number of gun laws](#) that would not have prevented a single mass shooting in the nation’s history. In fact, these new laws will not stop a single instance of “gun violence” that their proponents claim to care about.

(Note the disconnect between a Democratic Party that decries “gun violence” — of which [two-thirds are suicides](#) — yet championed a [new law allowing physician-assisted suicide](#).)

One of the laws requires a background check to be run for every ammunition purchase, bans mail-order ammunition purchases and prohibits bringing even a moderate amount of ammunition into the state — even if you originally purchased it here.

For Rhode, who shoots between 500 and 1,000 rounds a day while training, the [new law](#) is sure to be a burden. It’s also unclear to her how her sponsor, ammo manufacturer Winchester, will be able to supply her with ammunition.

In an interview with radio talk show host Dana Loesch, Rhode also expressed concern that guns owned by her father will now classify as assault weapons, requiring them to be registered and preventing them from being passed down to her son. “Assault weapons” that have never killed anyone and are unlikely to kill anyone, even if her son took possession of them 30 years from now.

Another law prevents loaning guns to anyone other than immediate family members without background checks and their associated 10-day waits — both before the loan and again when the loaned firearm is returned to the owner.

These laws — and a similar one that’s part of a referendum being pushed by Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom on this fall’s ballot — have one thing in common: They’ll never affect a single murderer, drug dealer or gang banger.

Proponents believe ammunition background checks will somehow succeed where the gun background checks have failed. As if criminals who were able to acquire a firearm illegally won’t be able to get ammunition the same way.

The truth is that Democrats don’t care about the “gun” part of “gun control”; they care about the “control” part.

Earlier this month, President Barack Obama pardoned 214 federal prisoners. While nearly all had been convicted of drug crimes, a not-insignificant number of them had also been [sentenced for gun crimes](#).

Just last year, a woman bought a gun for her boyfriend, a convicted felon barred from having a gun. He then used that gun to kill a police officer in Omaha, Nebraska, who was just hours from finishing her last shift before going on maternity leave.

The woman, guilty of what is called a “straw purchase” for a gun that ultimately killed a cop, was [sentenced to probation](#).

There is a glimmer of hope for California gun owners.

Unlike Newsom’s “Safety for All” initiative backed by Hollywood liberals and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg (who has an armed private security detail), [Veto Gunmageddon](#) is a grass-roots effort to repeal the just-passed laws through the referendum process.

To get on the November ballot, 365,000 signatures are needed by Sept. 29. Petitions are available to sign at many local gun shops.

You can find out more at [www.VetoGunmageddon.org](#).

The rejection of these new gun laws might give state legislators reason to rethink their unending assault on Californians’ Second Amendment rights. Maybe they can instead look into why [aloe vera was deemed a carcinogen](#) earlier this year by the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

Conservative columnist Matthew Hoy is a former reporter, editor and page designer. His column appears in The Tribune every other Sunday, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks. Read Hoy’s blog at Hoystory.com. Follow him on Twitter @Hoystory.

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Mike McCurdy
"a number of gun laws that would not have prevented a single mass shooting in the nation's history."

Maybe not, but at least they are trying to do something about a gun culture that has fueled demand (and put so many more guns out there) and made it seem "normal" for everyone to have a weapon. I strongly support ammo "control."

Like Reply Aug 23, 2016 3:10pm

Ben Pottinger - Homeschooled
Yup, you better "do something!" Even if that something is stupid and useless right? How about we look at the real, cold statistics for a second? How about the fact that gun ownership has skyrocketed, the number of guns in the USA has skyrocketed, and the number of people legally carrying firearms has skyrocketed, yet even with all those evil guns out there crime and murder has been on a constant steady decline.

Just stop and think about some of this stuff logically for a minute. "No guns" signs outside a business or school? WTH does that accomplish exactly? If that works so well why do... See More

Like Reply 4 Aug 23, 2016 4:19pm

Joe Wenzel
You're an idiot.

Like Reply Sep 9, 2016 5:53pm

Ben Pottinger - Homeschooled
Joe Wenzel He thinks he needs to "do something" even if that something makes no logical sense at all and in fact is detrimental overall.

Lets just look at some numbers real quick (2010 FBI numbers) California has a roughly 20% gun ownership rate and kentucky has a 42% ownership rate (probably higher since kentucky has no form of state level registration or tracking like california does). Yet California has a "gun homicide rate" of 3.4 per 100,000 compared to Kentucky's 2.7 per 100,000. Kentucky also has about 5% of the adult population legally carrying firearms (over 200,000 CCW permits i... See More

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Caroline Robins
This should certainly give everyone food for thought. Some proposed regulations/laws go too far, that much is clear. Mr. Hoy brings up some interesting points that deserve further discussion.

However, he creates a simplistic, narrow example to prove his point. It is not just Olympians in shooting disciplines who have won multiple medals during multiple Olympics and are unknown to most people. Any athlete who competes in a non-glamorous or not well known sport does not get the coverage that the "hot" sports receive. Fencing, rowing/crew/canoe, trampoline, equestrian, handball, table tennis... See More

Like Reply Aug 22, 2016 3:21pm Edited

Rodger Avalanchier - Morro Bay, California
Not every aspect is bad. Best idea is ammo checks (can't stop black market imports without a law in place). Hoy falls short by suggesting common sense regulations should not be considered because "a woman in Omaha" skirted a law.

BiW Hoy's dismissal of gun control proponents by suggesting many also support physician-assisted suicide is ludicrous even by Hoy's standards.

Like Reply Aug 22, 2016 8:12pm Edited

David Medzyk - Retired, at United States Army
Yes, everything about all these new laws are simply bad. Not a single anti-gun law has done a single thing to stop illegal use of guns by criminals. 20,000+ gun laws currently on the federal, state, and local books has done NOTHING to stop criminals.

Nothing.

Each one of these laws was touted as "common sense", yet they obviously are not, as people who do not obey laws, have no sense about them. The woman who did the Straw Purchase only received probation...for a felony requiring no less than 10 years in jail. This is common among liberal judges and legislators. Did you know California lare... See More

Like Reply 2 Aug 22, 2016 8:36pm

Alexis Vee - California Polytechnic State University
David Medzyk Using your same flawed logic, we could also say that the existing DUI laws have done nothing to stop drunk drivers killing 9,967 people in 2014, or laws against sex trafficking have done nothing to curb this rising crime. Do you propose we rollback those laws too?

Like Reply Aug 23, 2016 2:18am

Rodger Avalanchier - Morro Bay, California
David, there are gun problems beyond criminals -- the spontaneity of violence in abusive relationships or the rapid run up to a crime of passion argue for waiting periods. Household weapons falling in the hands of unstable family members begs for stricter liability laws.

California's proposed gun laws is a direct result of the gun lobby's successful efforts to block commonsense ideas like expanded background checks and closing the Gun show loophole.

Like Reply Aug 23, 2016 8:11am Edited

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Russ Byler - Upper Management at Calhouse
Their minds are made up. You confuse them with facts. Thanks for trying.

Like Reply 3 Aug 21, 2016 8:26pm

Rodger Avalanchier - Morro Bay, California
Russ, I think you will appreciate this article. Take a minute.

It discusses why the anti-tyranny case for the 2nd Amendment shouldn't be dismissed from debate by outlining Madison's strong support of the 2nd Amendment, an armed population and his vision for militias to fight federal tyranny.

The writer also provides contemporary examples of peaceful change taking place as a result of the 2nd amendment.

<http://www.vox.com/.../second-amendment-tyranny-militia...>

Like Reply Aug 23, 2016 8:06am Edited

Clifford Ishii - Livingston, New Jersey
Just bypass liberals and Dems on gun control by open carrying a Jo Staff

Like Reply 1 Aug 21, 2016 4:07pm

John Gajdos - School Of Hard Knocks, University Of Life
Great spot on commentary, thank you m

Like Reply 4 Aug 21, 2016 7:26am

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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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