

THE Gun Owners

47 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1976-2023

GOA Pushing Legislation to Destroy ATF's Registry of Gun Owners

by Erich Pratt

Gun Owners of America (GOA) is fighting back.

In 2021, GOA uncovered internal ATF documents revealing the Biden-Harris administration is secretly establishing an illegal registry of gun and gun owner records.

In response to what GOA uncovered, Rep. Michael Cloud (R-TX) reintroduced the No REGISTRY Rights Act (H.R. 1271) that would rein in the ATF and completely *eliminate* this unconstitutional national gun registry.

The legislation would require the ATF to *destroy* all the purchase records they have in their databases under penalty of law.

It would also require gun stores that are going out of business to destroy their purchase records, preventing those records from ending up in the hands of the ATF in the future.

GOA is working to dial up as much support as possible to ensure the No REGISTRY Rights Act passes the House. And to that end, GOA is urging all its members to contact their

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GOA's Erich Pratt recently met with Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL). She is a fierce defender of 2A rights, a vocal critic of the ATF, and an original cosponsor of H.R. 1271 — a bill that would destroy the ATF's gun registry.

GOA is Leading the Fight in Washington, D.C.

by Aidan Johnston

In early January, Gun Owners of America's team on Capitol Hill mobilized gun owners with an emergency warning: Republicans had scheduled a vote on a bill to ever-so-slightly expand the background check system.

Well, thanks to the activism of GOA members and its lobbying team on Capitol Hill, they were able to stop that bill and refocus the House of Representatives on ATF's unconstitutional overreach.

The background check bill never came to the floor and has yet to receive a vote. Instead, pro-gun bills are making their way through committees and are headed to the floor.

The GOA team has done a lot to hold Congress accountable and to defend gun owners' rights since the

118th Congress began in January.

GOA is unique in the nation's capital. We fight the Swamp and categorically refuse to cut deals that hurt the Constitutional rights of gun owners.

Here are just some of the battles where GOA members, with their activism and donations, have helped the GOA federal affairs team.

Defunding the ATF

On March 9th, President Biden put forward his budget proposal for 2024, which includes over \$1,900,000,000 for ATF.¹

That's a huge increase over the 2023 budget.²

What's worse, if Congress passes this budget, the ATF would have grown 35.7% larger during the Biden presiden-

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GOA Pushing Legislation to Destroy ATF's Registry of Gun Owners

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Representatives and demand they co-sponsor this critical piece of legislation.

Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL) recently blasted the Biden administration for “weaponizing” the ATF and using the agency to “write legislation that is unconstitutional.” A freshman in Congress, she is one of the original cosponsors of H.R. 1271.

Rep. Cloud explained why his bill is needed, saying “There is no reason for law-abiding American gun owners to be subjected to excessive scrutiny on the firearms they own by the federal government. My bill would dismantle ATF’s record-keeping, restore privacy for American gun owners, and reverse the groundwork laid in the creation of a federal firearms registry.”

Over 60 congressmen have already cosponsored this important legislation. As indicated by Rep. Cloud, H.R. 1271 would *eliminate* the ATF’s illegal national gun registry. This is good news, but we are not content to just settle for that.

GOA is also battling the ATF’s unconstitutional gun registry on multiple fronts. In addition to pushing the No REGISTRY Rights Act, GOA is fighting back against this egregious assault on the Second Amendment in the courts.

The case revolves around a legal challenge to Biden’s first executive action involving 80% receivers. This regulation aids in the compilation of the illegal gun registry by requiring that

out-of-business records be sent to the ATF.

That lawsuit is progressing well, and GOA’s attorneys gave oral arguments before a three-judge panel in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals on March 14.

GOA is hoping for a nationwide injunction against the ATF to prevent them from implementing this unconstitutional rule.

GOA’s challenge is currently the *only* case challenging the ATF’s unconstitutional gun registry—a registry that has now grown to encompass almost a *billion* records.

The ATF has no business maintaining these records in a digital, searchable database that could easily be weaponized against gun owners.

This kind of mass gun registration is the first step towards ... you guessed it ... gun *confiscation*. Examples abound — from Cuba to Venezuela to New York City.

And, of course, this is the danger with allowing the ATF to continue registering hundreds of millions of gun owners.

Unless Congress takes action, the ATF will be free to continue building this illegal registry.

The Biden-Harris administration’s ultimate goal is to build a complete and total gun registry that will eventually contain every firearm sold since August 24, 2002 — and many of the firearms sold before that date, as well.

And that’s why it’s absolutely essential that the House passes H.R. 1271 with as many co-sponsors as possible. That helps build momentum, which will allow pro-gun congressmen to place an amendment defunding the ATF into a must-pass bill.

The goal is to completely “defang” and defund the ATF. Only then will people’s Second Amendment rights be better secured. ■

Support is Building for Defanging the NFA



Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA)

Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA) and Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS) have introduced the SHORT Act—or Stop Harassing Owners of Rifles Today. Their legislation (H.R. 646, S. 163) will remove all regulations for SBRs, SBSs, and AOWs from the National Firearms Act, effectively eliminating *half* of the entire law. This is critical, since the ATF’s recent Pistol Brace Ban Rule is claiming the NFA is what gives them the power to do this rule. Listed here are the cosponsors for H.R. 646.

Babin, Brian (R-TX-36)
Bice, Stephanie I. (R-OK-5)
Biggs, Andy (R-AZ-5)
Boebert, Lauren (R-CO-3)
Brecheen, Josh (R-OK-2)
Burgess, Michael C. (R-TX-26)
Cammack, Kat (R-FL-3)
Clyde, Andrew (R-GA-9) **
Crane, Elijah (R-AZ-2)
Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" (R-AR-1)

Davidson, Warren (R-OH-8)
Dunn, Neal P. (R-FL-2)
Edwards, Chuck (R-NC-11)
Fry, Russell (R-SC-7)
Gaetz, Matt (R-FL-1)
Good, Bob (R-VA-5)
Green, Mark E. (R-TN-7)
Greene, Marjorie Taylor (R-GA-14)
Harris, Andy (R-MD-1)
Higgins, Clay (R-LA-3)

Hudson, Richard (R-NC-9)
Hunt, Wesley (R-TX-38)
Luna, Anna Paulina (R-FL-13)
Massie, Thomas (R-KY-4)
Miller, Carol D. (R-WV-1)
Miller, Mary E. (R-IL-15)
Moolenaar, John R. (R-MI-2)
Mooney, Alexander X. (R-WV-2)
Moore, Barry (R-AL-2)
Nehls, Troy E. (R-TX-22)

Norman, Ralph (R-SC-5)
Ogles, Andrew (R-TN-5)
Perry, Scott (R-PA-10)
Rose, John W. (R-TN-6)
Rosendale Sr., Matthew M. (R-MT-2)
Scott, Austin (R-GA-8)
Self, Keith (R-TX-3)
Walberg, Tim (R-MI-5)
Weber, Randy K., Sr. (R-TX-14)
Webster, Daniel (R-FL-11)

** Indicates original sponsor.

GOA is Leading the Fight in Washington, D.C.

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cy and 50.9% larger since the Obama administration.

These funds and an expanded ATF will be used to continue President Biden's war against American gun owners and the firearm industry.

For too long, ATF has abused its authority to persecute otherwise law-abiding gun owners who have committed non-violent offenses — such as having a barrel that is too short.

Gun Owners of America believes ATF's abuse of gun rights must stop.

Instead of letting President Biden increase ATF funding to “nearly \$2 billion,”³ GOA is calling on Congress to cut ATF's funding and abolish the agency so it can never again infringe on your gun rights.

And the message is getting through to Congressmen too. At a recent hearing on ATF abuses, Judiciary Subcommittee Chairman Andy Biggs of Arizona said:

When is enough “enough”? Well I think we have seen enough. And I hope that we can act to put an end to this ATF overreach. And I would suggest that the most effective approach is to reduce [ATF's] funding. Or better still eliminate all funding, and even better, eliminate this woke weaponized agency.

Democrats and bureaucrats alike are shaking in their boots at the prospect of defunding and abolishing the ATF. The Biden Administration has calculated that a small cut in funding would mean the “ATF would have to take 36 furlough days for



Director of Federal Affairs Aidan Johnston told host Sebastian Gorka: “Criminals are always going to get ahold of guns. I don’t know why we let dangerous people roam society freely and expect a background check is going to stop them.”

His claimed “authority” comes from Section 12002 of the Cornyn-Murphy Compromise, which GOA also fought against tooth and nail last year.⁶

Nevertheless, Congress, including 15 Senate Republicans, rushed to “compromise” our gun rights away with hastily-written, secretly-negotiated legislation.⁷

Expanding the statutory definition of FFLs (Federal Firearms Licenses) allowed the Biden administration a strong excuse to vastly expand federal regulations and require anyone who sells more than one gun to do so through an FFL, resulting in a backdoor mechanism for universal background regis-

“I would suggest that the most effective approach is to reduce [ATF's] funding. Or better still eliminate all funding, and even better, eliminate this woke weaponized agency.”



Aidan Johnston went on OAN's *Tipping Point* with Kara McKinney to discuss Biden's Pistol Ban. This unconstitutional overreach is just one of many reasons GOA is advocating for defunding and abolishing the ATF.

all of its over 5,000 employees.”⁴

That's a step in the right direction, but that funding freeze is nowhere near enough. So, GOA will keep fighting on the budget and keep gun owners posted on how things are going.

Opposing Backdoor Universal Background Checks (UBCs)

President Biden just announced he would be mandating backdoor UBCs or moving the country “as close to universal background checks as possible without additional legislation.”⁵

tration checks — just as the Obama administration attempted.⁸

The goal of President Biden's new backdoor UBC scheme is to turn as many private citizens who sell their guns into FFLs, restricting their ability to conduct private gun transfers without a background check and a Firearm Transaction Record (Form 4473) recording the firearm in ATF's illegal national federal registry.

Remember, the ATF already has a database of nearly one billion gun and gun owner records its field office in West Virginia.⁹

It is unconscionable that Republicans in Congress — led by Senators John Cornyn (TX) and Mitch McConnell (KY) — would help President Biden universalize or expand the background check system.

The list of notable GOP Senators who followed Cornyn and McConnell's lead includes Senators Lisa Murkowski (AK), Joni Ernst (IA), Todd Young (IN), Bill Cassidy (LA), Lindsey Graham (SC), Mitt Romney (UT) and Shelley Capito (WV).

All of them voted for gun control. All of them helped pave the way for Biden's recent gun control, by voting to expand the definition of who is a gun dealer.

But as GOA predicted, that new definition would be abused

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Gun Owners of America

Supreme Court Justices Help Expedite GOA Case in NY ▶

In January, two SCOTUS Justices “bench-slapped” a court of appeals after it stayed an injunction protecting gun rights in a lawsuit filed by Gun Owners of America (GOA). The GOA case in question is *Antonyuk v. Nigrelli*, which challenges New York’s draconian restrictions on concealed carry.

GOA had secured a preliminary injunction against the enforcement of NY’s law in district court last year, but the circuit court had quickly stayed that ruling without comment. After GOA filed an emergency application to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas issued a stern warning to the court of appeals, noting the district court judge had issued a “thorough” opinion and that our case had raised “serious questions” under both the First and Second Amendments.

Further, Justices Thomas and Alito indicated the High Court is prepared to step in and re-assert the *Bruen* precedent should lower courts fail to properly follow that decision, and in a timely manner, apply it in judicial cases where Second Amendment rights are being infringed. The Justices’ rebuke had the desired effect, as the lower court quickly convened and held an oral hearing in GOA’s case a few weeks later. Stay tuned for further updates!

From left to right: **GOA attorney Stephen Stamboulieh**, **Ivan Antonyuk (plaintiff)** and **GOA Senior Vice President Erich Pratt**.



◀ GOA Joins with the State of Texas to Challenge ATF Gun Ban

In February, Gun Owners of America and the Gun Owners Foundation jointly filed a lawsuit challenging the Biden Pistol Brace Ban with the State of Texas.

This new rule, which took effect on January 31st of this year, will force Americans to register, dismantle, or destroy as many as 40 million lawfully-owned braced firearms, or face possible felony charges.

For roughly ten years, the ATF declared these braced firearms were legal. But now ATF bureaucrats have reversed course, saying braced pistols are actually “Short Barreled Rifles.” And if they’re not registered during the 120-day grace period, gun owners could face up to ten years in jail and \$250,000 in fines — simply because they had followed prior ATF guidance and own a firearm that ATF now considers to have too short of a barrel.

GOA’s Erich Pratt stated on *Fox News*, “This is the biggest gun grab in the history of our country, and we are fully committed to fighting this executive order at every turn.”

The GOA suit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas and, at the time of this writing, is still pending a court date to be set by the judge.



GOA Works to Preempt Local Gun Control in Wyoming ▶

GOA’s Wyoming State Director Mark Jones (pictured to the right of the Governor) worked with legislators in the House and Senate and testified in committees to support important legislation that will prevent localities from imposing gun control. Because the GOA-supported bill (SF0148) became law in February, it will stop local authorities from regulating firearms, accessories, ammunition, or other Constitutionally-protected arms.

An unintentional statutory reference in the Wyoming Firearms Freedom Act had made Wyoming’s prior preemption law only apply to firearms made entirely within the Cowboy State. That meant a local government authority could have potentially passed restrictions on concealed carry, magazine sizes, or legal activities allowed under Wyoming law, as long as they exempted Wyoming-made firearms and accessories.

Now that Governor Mark Gordon has signed SF0148 into law, localities are prohibited from having any firearms restrictions not authorized by the Wyoming Legislature.

America on the Frontlines



◀ GOA: 3, Oregon Gun Banners: 0

Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation secured a preliminary injunction in Oregon state court in December, preventing a new law from taking effect that requires a permit to purchase firearms and bans standard-capacity magazines.

After this initial victory, Oregon Governor Kate Brown tried *twice* to get the state supreme court to set aside the circuit court judge's decision. But the supreme court rebuffed her efforts each time. For those who are keeping count: That's three GOA wins, and zero for the state of Oregon.

ZeroHedge quoted GOA's Erich Pratt, who blasted the Oregon law: "Oregon's measure 114 is a joke," Pratt said. "Since when do criminals wait in line to get permits or to register their guns? They don't. This unconstitutional law will only keep decent Oregonians from exercising their Second Amendment rights."

GOA Celebrates Repeal of Jim Crow-era Gun Control in NC ▶

In March, GOA mobilized grassroots gun owners in the Tar Heel State to override Gov. Roy Cooper's veto of a historic, pro-gun bill. SB 41 repeals pistol purchase permits and restores the right to carry firearms in churches with private schools.

GOA Southeast Region Director Jordan Stein stated, "This is one of the most significant pro-gun reforms passed in the Old North State in nearly a decade."

GOA's North Carolina State Director, Andy Stevens, pounded the pavement in Raleigh not only to ensure the votes for passing this bill, but also to secure the necessary support for overcoming Cooper's veto. GOA also thanks Grass Roots North Carolina for their work in passing this bill.

GOA's Jordan Stein (left) and Andy Stevens.



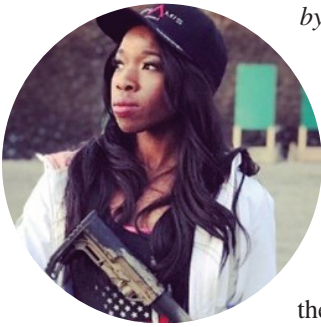
◀ GOA-Backed Campus Carry Enacted in West Virginia

GOA successfully rallied Mountaineer gun owners in support of a campus carry bill this year. The new law enables visitors, staff and students to carry firearms in public universities in the state without fear of punishment.

GOA was pleased to work alongside the West Virginia Citizens Defense League, and Jordan Stein, GOA's Southeast Region Director, spoke to activists at their Lobby Day in February. At a time when young adults' right to keep and bear arms is under attack, this law allows 18-20 year olds the ability to protect themselves on campuses.

Given this law's high priority status for GOA, our West Virginia State Director Alex Shay (pictured with the Governor) was honored to attend the signing ceremony in March.

GOA Women Shaking Up State Capitals!



by Antonia Okafor Cover

This has been a big year for the GOA women's outreach program.

GOA Empowered 2A has launched its state coordinator program in 2023, where female leaders are carefully selected to represent their state and carry on the "no compromise" message to women in their home states.

This year, GOA has selected five women for the program to represent Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, and Texas. The ladies are already busy in their states attending outreach events and legislative session rallies and meetings.

For example, the official launch party for the Michigan chapter of Empowered 2A took place on March 11 in Grand Blanc. GOA Empowered 2A State Coordinator, Katie Gardner, hosted the event which was well attended by passionate female GOA members — not to mention key community leaders such as female city council members, school board members, and even pro-gun state Representative Angela Rigas (R).

Ten days later, Katie received a text from Rep. Rigas, telling her the Speaker of the House had just created a rule that banned all staff from carrying firearms in the capitol building. She asked Katie if she could come down there with her *Gun Rights Are Women's Rights* buttons so that she could pass them out to all her staff.

Katie dropped everything and drove an hour and a half to the capitol that next morning with GOA buttons and pens to pass out on the capitol grounds.

Amidst a sea of anti-gun protestors surrounding the capitol, Katie came in armed and proud to stand up for her Second Amendment protections with Representative Angela Rigas (R) by her side.

The Empowered 2A team compliments the team of GOA state directors around the country who are battling for our Second Amendment rights. For example, while the Wolverine State has been a real hot spot for anti-gun legislation this year, our Michigan State Director August Shettler has been rallying the grassroots at large to pressure state legislators in opposing Governor Gretchen Whitmer's anti-gun wish list.

Now and into the future, GOA Empowered 2A State Coordinators like Katie will be there to assist GOA State Directors and ensure that women are part of the fight to protect the Second Amendment.

As for the ladies, each state coordinator will be hosting GOA Empowered 2A training events in their state by the end of the year.

If you would like to get involved or even become an Empowered 2A Coordinator for your state, then please request more information by emailing GOA's Women's Outreach Director, Antonia Cover, at antonia@gunowners.org. ■



GOA's Katie Gardner countered the anti-gun "angry mommies" by passing out *Gun Rights Are Women's Rights* buttons at the state capitol.



GOA's Empowered 2A Michigan Coordinator Katie Gardner (on the left) with pro-gun state Representative Angela Rigas (R).

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to impact regular Americans who want to buy and sell firearms. After all, the ATF has exploited and abused the background check system for the creation of a near-billion record gun registry in violation of one federal statute and two appropriations act restrictions.¹⁰

No thanks to the feckless Republicans mentioned above, when Biden finalizes his back-door universal background check scheme in months to come, Gun Owners of America and its legal arm, Gun Owners Foundation, are committed to fighting it in court on behalf of gun owners.

Leaking ATF's Zero Tolerance Manual to Help Gun Stores

Gun Owners of America is also doing everything possible to help fight back against the Biden Administration's "Zero Tolerance" policy — whereby they shut down gun stores for paperwork mistakes.

The policy cannot be found anywhere in federal law, but that hasn't stopped Biden from persecuting local gun stores.

A whistleblower leaked a copy of ATF's entire Zero Tolerance manual to a GOA team member, which GOA published with the help of *Fox News*.

All gun stores should have access to the arbitrary policies and procedures that ATF bureaucrats will use to shut them down and destroy their business.

Based on our federal affairs department's review of changes in ATF's policy, it is clear that the Biden administration is seeking to weaponize ATF's bureaucracy against the entire Second Amendment industry.

The new policy is overly harsh — seemingly intentionally so — on honest gun stores.

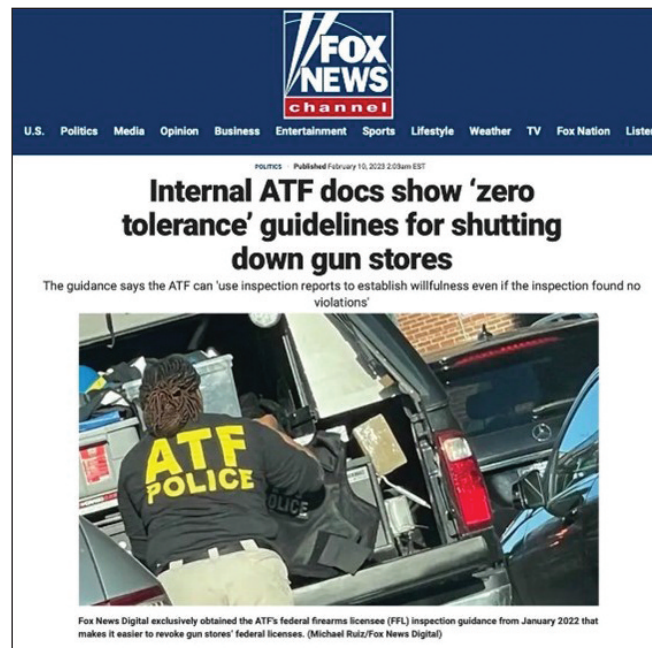
ATF has changed its focus from regulating the gun industry to destroying it by whatever means possible — effectively eliminating access to firearms by putting as many gun dealers out of business as possible.

Of course, there is another nefarious purpose behind the Biden administration's Zero Tolerance agenda to eliminate gun stores.

When an FFL goes out of business, it is required to send every Firearm Transaction Form (Form 4473) to the ATF, along with its "bound book" and other records.

As of November 2021, ATF has turned 920,664,765 of these records into an illegal national gun registry.¹¹

According to ATF, 865,787,086 records already are in an



Aidan Johnston, GOA's director of federal affairs, told *Fox News Digital* that "Joe Biden has weaponized the ATF against gun owners and the firearms industry in an attempt to violate the Second Amendment and expand his illegal gun registry."

electronic format, which Gun Owners of America proved to be digital, searchable, and centralized — in violation of federal law.¹²

Of course, because ATF cannot enter a dealer's records into its registry until the FFL goes out of business, the Biden administration's mass license revocation strategy allows ATF to expand its national gun registry at an unprecedented rate.

Because a Federal Firearms License can now be revoked for first offenses, many well-intentioned gun stores (and their employees) are now guaranteed to lose their livelihoods if ATF decides to construe an innocent mistake as a "willful" violation.

This hurts not only the FFL and its employees, but also the firearms community by reducing access to lawful self-defense tools and expanding ATF's illegal out-of-business gun registration

records for the communities formerly served by the store.

Also, the more FFLs the Biden administration shuts down, the less access Americans will have to their Second Amendment rights and the more data the federal government will control about the identities of law-abiding gun owners in a given community.

GOA will continue to fight against Biden's made-up "Zero Tolerance" policy for gun stores and continue to push Congress to hold hearings and hold ATF accountable.

Gun Owners of America is the only group in Washington, D.C. fighting the anti-gunners on EVERY level without compromising Second Amendment rights.

Stay tuned for more updates about what the GOA team is doing on Capitol Hill to fight back against the Biden administration. ■

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- 9 Johnston. "ATF's Illegal Gun Owner Registry." *Gun Owners of America*. 2022.
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- 11 *Ibid*.
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Velleco: Second Amendment Needs Defending from Biden Assault

by John Velleco

In March, President Biden launched an assault against the GOP for fighting his unconstitutional assault weapons ban, according to a breaking

national news report.

What will that do to the customers of Neil Patel's KARCO gas station in Philadelphia, who are currently protected from gang members and drug dealers by a private security firm with rifles such as the AR-15, because Democrats have lost control of Philly to criminals? The City of Brotherly Love is riddled with crime.

Auto thefts rose last year by 30%, commercial burglaries by 41%, retail thefts by 51%, and carjackings by 53%, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Worst of all, murders last year topped a towering 500 — along with the year before, the city's two highest murder totals in six decades.

In response, last year Mr. Patel hired private security firm Pennsylvania S.I.T.E. State Agents after his business came under literal gunfire from gangs. Drug dealers were dealing in the open in and around Patel's store, his ATM machine had been stolen, and even his car was vandalized.

Now, every day, Pennsylvania S.I.T.E. State Agents patrol Mr. Patel's business to protect his customers.

Is it working?

So far, Mr. Patel reports the problems that happened before the private security firm was hired have stopped.

- No more gangland shootings at the gas station.
- No more drug deals.
- No more cars being vandalized.

- No more theft, and not one shot fired.

The AR-15s are acting as a deterrent.

Today, Mr. Patel is able to run his business without the threat of crime, even though he has the added cost of paying a private company to do what Philly cannot.

Had President Biden succeeded in his anti-Second Amendment efforts, the security firm wouldn't be able to use the AR-15 as a deterrent, and Mr. Patel and his customers might still be living in fear of criminals at the gas station.

Of course, Gun Owners of America (GOA) supports the right of people like Mr. Patel and the men with AR-15s outside his gas station to lawfully own, and if need be, use their firearms in the defense of freedom.

This past summer, Philadelphia's Mayor Jim Kenney tried to limit law-abiding citizens from having firearms in certain public spaces after a criminal murdered a woman outside a public pool.

The mayor's gun restriction was illegal, and GOA went to court to immediately make sure law-abiding Philadelphians could continue to protect themselves in those public areas.

Now Joe Biden plans to go on offense again against misnamed "assault" rifles nationwide.

Do you feel safe yet?

There is no reason to restrict good people from protecting themselves when the problem isn't the good people, but criminals — and the Democrats in power, such as Mayor Kenney and President Biden, who lend them a hand.

As President Biden launches his assault on "assault weapons" ban opponents, just remember Neil Patel.

Join GOA in standing with Mr. Patel to defend the Second Amendment from people like President Biden. ■

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