



Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership

A Project of the Second Amendment Foundation

www.drgo.us

The Honorable Senator Lois Wolk
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 25, 2016

Dear Senator Wolk:

RE: SB 1006 and SJR 20—OPPOSE

Twenty years ago I was one of four medical doctors who testified before the House Appropriations Committee, urging it to withdraw funding for gun control advocacy at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Top CDC officials had publicized their plan to use the CDC's power to work for gun prohibition. We showed Congress examples of anti-gun rights advocacy research—research characterized by sampling bias designed to shape results, faulty experimental design, and exclusion of contrary research. Unsurprisingly, Congress voted to “prohibit the [CDC] from engaging in any activities to advocate or promote gun control.”

Now supporters of gun control in California wish to fund the same flawed and politically motivated advocacy research in the UC system. Since the 1980s the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program and its leader Dr. Garen Wintemute have turned out countless articles under the prestigious banners of medical journals. Those articles invariably portray guns negatively and contain emotional recitations of misleading “gun violence” statistics.

But Wintemute's research has a huge void, a black space. Never does he acknowledge the massive body of research done by criminologists showing the benefits of responsible gun ownership, especially more than a dozen studies showing hundreds of thousands of defensive gun uses *each year*. No reputable scientist refuses even to recognize contrary research findings.

Dr. Wintemute highlights the damage done by “youth” with firearms, budding career criminals and gang members (although he never refers to them as such). But not a word about the good young people here in California who learn safety, mature judgment, and discipline under the watchful guidance of adult teachers in organized youth shooting clubs all over California.

Congress shut down the CDC's gun control advocacy in the 1990s. California gun control activists now seek to use UC resources to generate advocacy science undermining our civil rights. Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership urges your opposition to SB 1006 and SJR 20.

Timothy W. Wheeler, MD
Director