

State of Kansas  
House of Representatives

State Capitol  
Topeka, KS 66612  
785-296-7646  
800-432-3924  
TTY 785-296-8430

TerriLois.Gregory@house.ks.gov



District Office  
P.O. Box 105  
Baldwin City, KS 66006  
785-222-0045  
reptlg@gmail.com

TerriLois Gregory  
Representative, 10th District  
Douglas and Franklin Counties

Mr. Chairman and members of the Federal and State affairs committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

Dr. John Lawton, has written 90 peer reviewed articles, wrote 5 books including "Bias against guns" and "More guns less crime." The following information was obtained from Dr. Lawton's presentation I attend this past summer.

The question to ask is:

**Do gun bans make places safer?**

Name one place in the world where murder rates and crime rate went down after a ban was implemented. You cannot because it does not exist. There is not one city or country. All data that exists pointing to murder and crime rates in relation to gun bans indicates increases, not decreases.

In the USA we have Chicago and Washington DC that point to increases in adverse situations. Critics say it was not a fair test since criminals simply cross state lines and purchase guns. The ban needs to be over the whole country. The problem is that doesn't explain why the murder rates go up.

~~After 9/11 Dr. Lawton consulted with airline pilots for protection. People assumed that current laws have always been in place. There were many discussions on what if the pilot drew and fired on the co-pilot, had an accident, or some other mishap. Few people know that between 1924 and 1963 it was mandated for every single pilot of a commercial flight to be armed with a loaded handgun during flights. Basically this law came about because in the mid 1920's bi-planes were carrying mail and if it crashed, the CAB at the time wanted the pilot to protect the mail on that flight.~~

That law stayed on the books from 1924 through 1963. Pilots were allowed to carry guns on planes until 1979 when the Carter Administration banned the practice. But for all those decades from 1924 through 1979 where the pilot was mandated to carry a loaded handgun with them when there was no licensing, no training, and no physiological screening tests, there was not one identifiable case by FAA or CAB of any problem that resulted from all those pilots carrying a loaded handgun.

The debate is focused on "What might go wrong" rather than actual data experience has been. There are scare tactics used on what might possibly happen. Because of massive amounts of data on what has actually happened, we don't need to guess. This data is not restricted to just the United States. We have countries across the world to analyze.

The Washington DC handgun ban was passed in late summer of 1976. A court case prevented the ban from immediately going into effect, so it was implemented in February 1977. There are many stats on different crime rates, but to just focus on murder rates. DC's murder shows only one year, 1984, where the murder rate was as low as it was prior to the handgun ban going into effect. Every other year was higher and most years were dramatically higher. DC's murder rate rose not only to its prior rate, but relative to all other rates as well. Looking at the top 50 largest cities in the USA, never been above 15<sup>th</sup> usually around 20<sup>th</sup>. In the years after the ban, DC was #1 or #2 and in 2/3 of the time of the ban, they were never lower than 4<sup>th</sup> of the top 50 most populated cities.

A ratio of DC's murder rate compared to 48 cities (excluding Chicago because they also implemented a ban during this time frame) showed a falling trend in murder rates. The year prior to the ban going into effect, DC was 10% higher than the other 48 cities' average. Following the ban, almost immediately there was a 40% increase in their murder rate. Going out 11 years later, DC is 80% higher than the average.

In 1988 with the crack cocaine epidemic, the rate rose even dramatically more since people could not legally protect themselves. Comparing to neighboring states like Maryland or Virginia you do not see such marked spikes in murder rates.

In the Heller case of June 2008 the Supreme Court struck down DC's gun ban. In 2009, DC's murder rate fell by 23% almost 24%, to the lowest rate since 1967. During that same year nationally, cities with a population over 500,000 had murder rates drop by 7.5%.

There are more murders during the summer than winter, so if you just take the first 7 months of 2007 2008, 2009, and 10, you see for homicide flat rates. But for DC, after the Supreme Court ruling, you find 107 murders down to 82 for the first 7 months of 2009 and during the first 7 months of 2010 it went to 69. That is a 36% drop in the murder rate in the 2 years after the Supreme Court decision. And not just murder rates, but violent crimes across the board go down.

A very interesting exercise is comparing crimes with guns and crimes without guns. Aggravated assaults without guns dropped 8%, aggravated assaults with guns fell by 24% or 3 times larger. Statistics on robberies excluding guns was 3% versus robberies with guns was 10% so again was about 3 times larger drop.

Where there are right to carry laws, we see drops in murder rates and violent crimes, but we also see larger drops in crimes committed with guns than you see in crimes committed without guns. What happens is that as law abiding citizens start to carry guns, criminals become less likely to carry them. Criminals are more likely to use weapons other than guns.

Chicago's handgun ban went into effect in November 1982. Compared to the top 10 largest cities, Chicago's murder rate was falling prior to the ban (about 97% of the average top 10 populated cities), but immediately after the ban the murder rate starts moving up at 20% and 30% increases above average. There is not a single year the murder rate was as low during the ban as prior to Chicago's ban.

For the 6 counties that border Chicago (5 in IL and 1 in IN), Chicago's murder rate was falling compared to regional statistics, but rising immediately after the ban compared to adjacent counties. The pattern holds true when you compared Chicago to the US as a whole; rates were falling prior to the ban and gaining after the ban.

After the Supreme Court ruling, again we see immediate drops in Chicago's murder rate. The first 6 months of the year showed a 5% gain in Chicago murders compared to the previous year, but the last 6 months showed a 14% drop after the ruling when compared to the prior year.

There were actually 2 cities involved in the Chicago gun ban. When the suit was brought against the ban, Oak Park IL voluntarily dropped its ban, and the newspapers reported an immediate drop in the city's murder rate and violent crime to the lowest level in 30 years. Virtually the entire 12% drop occurred in the last 6 months of 2010.

Around the world we seen the phenomena in multiple nations, but the idea experiment is island nations with no boarder to guard. Ireland's gun ban started in 1972. You see an immediate increase in murder rates and at no time does the rate fall below levels prior to the ban going into effect.

In 1975, Jamaica enacted a gun ban. Prior to the ban their murder rate was flat, but afterwards there is no year where rates are ever as low as before the ban. For a country of 3.5 Million people, the murder rate is so high that 60 per 100,000 per day is normal. The murder rate USA is 4.8 per 100,000 people right now. And the point is that the gun ban did not stop the drug gangs from obtaining guns.

In the United Kingdom of England and Wales where January 1<sup>st</sup> 1997 began their gun ban, the 13 years after the ban their homicide rate never fell to pre-ban rates. In fact, the rate is 40% higher than before the ban went into effect.

~~We see time after time where bans go into effect that we try to make a city or nation safe but the opposite happens. So the question is: Who obeys these laws? Who is this most likely to affect? It is the law abiding citizens and not that criminals, giving us these perverse effects. We create potential victims by disarming able bodied citizens.~~

If you were being truly threatened, stalked and pursued by a criminal, would you feel safer posting a sign in your front yard that says, "This is a gun free zone"?

During the Columbine attack, the NY Times reported that the two killers were lobbying against concealed carry laws in Colorado. One of the killing team was particularly upset that a portion of the bill allowed concealed carry on school property. The day of the attack was the day the Colorado state legislature was planning on voting on final passage of the right to carry law. They timed their attack to occur on the day of the final passage of the right to carry law. How different the day might have turned out if even one teacher had been able to defend their students.

A review of all multiple victim shooting attacks from 1977-1999 as well as a review of 13 different gun control laws, policing activities and strategies, and income factors looking for changes or trends in multiple victim crimes. Review showed the normal types of law enforcement that impact all other types

of crime didn't seem to work for multiple victim public shootings. Higher arrest rates, higher conviction rates, longer sentences, the death penalty did not work. In about 75% of the time of these crimes the killer dies themselves by other gunfire or by suicide.

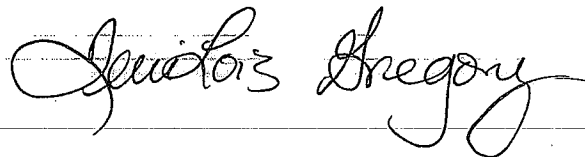
Interviews with the 25% of the criminals that survived a multiple victim public shooting, say they planned on dying but couldn't bring themselves to commit suicide. If someone is certain they will die committing the crime, punishment after the fact isn't particularly relevant to the perpetrator. They crave attention and know how much attention other crimes have received, so their video diaries state they will kill more people than ever before.

In these types of crimes, the main deterrent to the number of deaths caused is the amount of time from the start of the attack until help arrives on the scene with a gun. The shorter that time the less carnage that is experienced.

In the 13 types of gun laws passed, the only one that affected multiple victim public shooting crimes was right to carry laws. There was a 60% drop in public shootings when right to carry passed in a state. There was a 78% drop in the rate that people were injured or killed when these attacks occurred. After right to carry laws were passed, the multiple victim public shootings overwhelmingly occurred in those tiny pockets where gun free zones existed and concealed carry handguns were not allowed. Prior to 2011, every single multiple victim public shooting with more than 3 victims occurred in gun free zones. This is not a random occurrence, but a verifiable pattern.

The incontrovertible facts point to the only logical conclusion to protect our Kansas citizens: Allow licensed concealed carry owners the freedom to protect not only themselves, but their neighbors.

Thank you for your time. I stand for questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Senator Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.