



“... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

## EXERCISING THE RIGHT

### Constitutional Carry in Iowa

This column recently reported on permit-less-carry laws, which are popularly referred to as “constitutional carry,” being enacted in Tennessee and Utah, and we can now report that Iowa has joined the fold. The *Washington Times* reported April 4 that Iowa governor Kim Reynolds signed a bill into law that, beginning July 1, will allow people to buy handguns without a permit or background check and also carry guns in public without a permit wherever it is lawful.

Anti-gun leftists immediately reacted to what they saw as a repeal of their favored gun-control laws. Erica Fletcher, a volunteer with the anti-gun group Iowa Moms Demand Action, decried the governor’s new law: “By caving to the gun lobby and extremists in the legislature, Gov. Reynolds has failed her constituents and made clear that she stands with the gun lobby over public safety.... We’ve seen what happens when states weaken their gun laws, gun violence goes up and people die.”

Fletcher must not have read the 2015 study by the Crime Prevention Research Center, which found that an increase in the number of gun owners who carry “is associated with a decrease in murder and total violent crime.”

### “Going Two-for-two” for the Second Amendment

The *Cumberland Times News* reported on April 9 about two pro-Second Amendment bills that were just signed by West Virginia Governor Jim Justice. The first bill, House Bill 2499, gives a tax credit to compensate for federal excise taxes from gun and ammunition purchases in the state, as well as providing property-tax relief for gun and ammunition manufacturers. In a virtual signing ceremony, Governor Justice explained, “It’s a huge deal that will help our gun stores.... It will help our people and everything, in a state that really enjoys the recreation of shooting at ranges, and absolutely getting out and enjoying the great nature of this state and being in the field hunting.”

House Bill 2793 enables out-of-state residents to get West Virginia concealed-carry permits. National Rifle Association state director Art Thomm applauded Delegate Gary Howell, the sponsor of both bills, and explained the benefits of the second bill. “It’s a big day for Del. Howell. He’s going two-for-two today,” Thomm said during the virtual signing ceremony. Thomm also explained that West Virginia should be able to generate a lot of money off out-of-state residents applying for West Virginia concealed-carry permits. He said that Utah, a state with a similar law, generates \$5.3 million a year from gun permits for out-of-state residents. “If we could just get 10% of that, that’s a lot of money.” Thomm explained.

### Texas Governor Denounces Biden’s Gun Control

President Joe Biden’s plan to pass executive orders to unilaterally implement unconstitutional gun control has Republican politicians pounding the pulpit in opposition. Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott made national news with a fiery denunciation of his own. His remarks were spot on regarding the Biden administration’s dangerous threat to our God-given right to self-defense.

*The Hill* reported on April 11 that Governor Abbott, in an appearance on *Fox News Sunday*, slammed Biden for engaging in dangerous theatrics: “I think that there is no acceptable way that a president by executive order can infringe upon Second Amendment rights or alter Second Amendment rights.... If the president really wanted to do something substantively, what he really could do by executive order is to eliminate the backlog of complaints that have already been filed about gun crimes that have taken place.”

When asked if he would support any new gun-control measures from the Biden administration, Abbott made it clear that he was not interested in doing anything that could infringe on the Second Amendment: “Texans and Americans know they need their Second Amendment rights to defend themselves at a time when the

United States government and other governments are doing less to defend our fellow Americans, and that is exactly why we should not have any further limitations of our Second Amendment rights.”

### Fauci Considers Gun Violence a “Public Health Emergency”

While many have criticized so-called public health expert Dr. Anthony Fauci’s outlandish statements over the past year, his pro-gun control remarks during an April 18 appearance on CNN’s *State of the Union* might be his most ridiculous ones yet. Fauci was asked by CNN’s Dana Bash whether “gun-violence” is a “public health issue.”

Fauci replied, “Myself, as a public health person, I think you can’t run away from that. When you see people getting killed, in this last month it’s just been horrifying what’s happened. How can you say that’s not a public health issue?” Fauci’s rhetoric on this was eerily similar to that of President Biden, who likewise denounced gun violence as a public health crisis.

In a 2019 statement before the Congressional Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, prolific author and noted academic John Lott poked holes in this ridiculous rhetoric, which is not supported by sound research. Lott criticized biased studies that inaccurately portray gun crimes as a public-health crisis because they fail to take into account the obvious benefits of gun ownership for public health. “The benefits of gun ownership have generally gone ignored in medical journals that have studied gun ownership, what is called the public health literature. There is no mention that widespread gun ownership deters criminals from breaking into homes, that gun ownership helps protect residents from harm in the event of a break-in, or that mass public shooters consistently attack gun-free zones where they don’t have to worry about victims being able to defend themselves,” Lott wrote. ■

— PATRICK KREY