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http://www.pinalcentral.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/is-gun-reform-too-extreme/article_52a39554-0438-5d76-a9d3-0c821b88a415.html

Is gun reform too extreme?

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Editor, Casa Grande Dispatch:

LD11 state Reps. Vince Leach and Mark Finchem have made it crystal clear that they will not support any attempt to keep machine gun-style weapons out of the hands of domestic abusers or even terrorists. They do, in fact, support legislation that weakens current firearm safety regulations. Their argument is based on an interpretation of the Second Amendment that makes little sense.

Their belief is that there should be absolutely no limit on gun access or firepower.

Let's try to take emotion out of this debate and look at reforms in a strictly rational way. We all agree that there have been too many innocent lives lost due to gun and domestic violence. While we are unlikely to agree on any "silver bullet" cure, the vast majority of us believe some action is better than none. By adopting some widely favored common sense safety reforms, we can begin taking some positive steps:

- Ban all accessories that turn any weapon into a machine gun (bump stocks)
- Raise the minimum age for gun purchase and ownership to 21
- Require a background check for every gun purchase (close the gun show loophole)
- Prevent convicted domestic abusers from gun ownership until any sentence and probation is completed and they are cleared by a mental health professional
- Enforce strict compliance of all gun storage regulations (preventing guns from getting into the wrong hands, including minor children)
- Increase investment in professional mental health intervention, diagnosis, reporting and treatment.

You'll notice that there is nothing proposed here that bans Americans from their right to "bear arms." Constitutional rights are inherently tied to responsibilities meant to protect "the common good."

It is my belief that legislators who hold to rigid ideology in order to garner support of lobbyists are the extremists.

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