



**Testimony of Sarah Joy Albrecht
Founder, Hold My Guns**

www.HoldMyGuns.org

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PENNSYLVANIA SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING
ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SECOND AMENDMENT
RIGHTS, AND OTHER GUN RELATED ISSUES
September 25, 2019

Introduction

My name is Sarah Joy Albrecht. Chester County, Pennsylvania, is my beloved home. I value people. I value life.

I am a Range Safety Officer (RSO)¹, a Childbirth Educator and Doula², an active member of my local community, Coatesville, where I have lived since 2003, and an active member of All Saints Church (CREC), where I have been a member since 2007. My husband Thomas C. Albrecht, III, and I just celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary, and we have five teenagers together (*some of whom are in driver's training!*). Tom and I humbly acknowledge that times of crisis can happen at any time to anyone, including in our own family, and we purpose ourselves to roll up our sleeves when needs arise in our community, to be listeners when people are hurting, and to look for ways to make a difference whenever possible. I see my work to form Hold My Guns as an extension of these commitments and values we strive to live by in our home, and I am delighted to tell you more about it in the testimony below.

Summary of Testimony

I was asked by Mr. Mike Cortez to provide this testimony regarding what I am presently doing to address issues of behavioral health and firearms in Pennsylvania and across the United States. It is not my intention to delve into the nuances of the proposed legislation, but to offer a liberty-based alternative to involuntary confiscation and to empower those experiencing acute crises or psychiatric emergency a safer storage option for lethal means as well as connection to community-based support.

In this written testimony, I will share with you the story behind Hold My Guns, an organization I founded in 2018, along with my friend Genevieve M. Jones, that will soon offer voluntary³ crisis firearms storage and suicide awareness education through partnering gun shops across the United States, including locations in Pennsylvania.

First and foremost, it is important to note that the Hold My Guns storage program is *not* intended for, and takes precautions to prevent, use of our program by prohibited individuals or those who have been court-ordered to temporarily relinquish firearms. Instead, Hold My Guns is intended to facilitate safe, legal, off-site storage for gun owners and their families who voluntarily choose to take a break from lethal means during a time of mental health or personal crisis in the home. It is a proactive, liberty-based option that can be respectfully recommended to gun owners and their families by caring loved ones, neighbors, first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, or anyone who is concerned about a gun owner or family member's well-being. It

¹ Certified National Rifle Association Range Safety Officer since 2017

² Certified Bradley Method Childbirth Educator and Doula since 2008

³ "Mental Health America (MHA) believes that effective protection of human rights and the best hope for recovery from mental illness comes from access to voluntary mental health treatment and services that are comprehensive, community-based, recovery-oriented and culturally and linguistically competent. It is essential that the rights of persons with mental health conditions to make decisions concerning their treatment be respected. MHA urges states to adopt laws that reflect the paramount value of maximizing the dignity, autonomy and self-determination of persons affected by mental health conditions. Voluntary admissions to treatment and services should be made more truly voluntary, and the use of advance directives should be implemented." See, <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/position-statement-22-involuntary-mental-health-treatment>

is our goal to reduce mental health stigma and help people get the help they need before private matters escalate to public ones.

Finally, I will detail the logistics of how the firearms storage program works, including its compliance to ATF regulations, highlight our educational and neighborly vision, and conclude with some testimonials from supporters.

The Hold My Guns Story

Suicide is one of the most heart-breaking, confusing ways to lose a loved one. Our family has lost five loved ones this way. While the most gut-wrenching to navigate was when my friend *D.* took her own life in her eleven year old son's bedroom -- he found her body -- and we babysat him and his eight year old brother in our home through the intense aftermath, after school and over the summer for two years, it was the suicide of an 18 year old friend of my son's, *T.*, that was the catalyst for founding Hold My Guns. She used a firearm. Following *T.*'s death, my teenager and his friends had some heartfelt conversations with me about firearms and suicide -- two topics that, for better or for worse, are areas where I have some experience.

One simple question that plagued me was, "Why didn't the family give the gun to a friend to keep?" As I looked at Pennsylvania law, I discovered that, while it is with the best intention to suggest⁴ to "give the gun to a friend" during times of a mental health crisis, it is not that simple⁵. Furthermore, unless certain requirements are met, it is *illegal*. In Pennsylvania, an individual may lend shotguns and rifles but not handguns, unless the person receiving the handgun has a license to carry firearms. Of course, not every trusted friend has a license to carry a firearm, and, what is meant to help a friend in a time of need may actually end up getting both individuals in trouble with the law. Second, even qualified trusted friends may not have additional safe storage space to accommodate a firearm, or they may have circumstances in their own household that are not conducive to holding a friend's firearm. Third, while owning firearms is a protected right, there is much cultural sensitivity and stigma surrounding firearms and mental health that can make the request an awkward one. Other off-site options may include taking a firearm to a local police department or sheriff's office or storing the firearm in a locked storage unit.

Cultural stigma surrounding interaction with law enforcement, privacy concerns, especially for members of law enforcement personally seeking crisis firearms storage⁶, and lack of storage

⁴See <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tarahaelle/2017/07/31/to-reduce-gun-access-for-someone-suicidal-respect-gun-owners-values-and-beliefs/#49a77a625352> "...ask them to give away their guns temporarily to you or another trusted individual"

⁵ See <https://blog.princelaw.com/2016/12/02/can-you-lend-a-firearm-to-another-person-under-federal-law/>

⁶ "First responders (policemen and firefighters) are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty. In 2017, there were at least 103 firefighter suicides and 140 police officer suicides. In contrast, 93 firefighters and 129 police officers died in the line of duty. Suicide is a result of mental illness, including depression and PTSD, which stems from constant exposure to death and destruction...The Ruderman White Paper on Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders examines a number of factors contributing to mental health issues among first responders and what leads to their elevated rate of suicide. One study included in the white paper found that on average, police officers witness 188 'critical incidents' during their careers. This exposure to trauma can lead to several forms of mental illness. For example, PTSD and depression rates among firefighters and police officers have been found to be as much as 5 times higher than the rates within the civilian population, which causes these first responders to commit suicide at a considerably higher rate (firefighters: 18/100,000; police officers: 17/100,000; general population 13/100,000). Even when suicide does not occur, untreated mental illness can lead to poor physical health and impaired decision-making. In addition, the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance (FBHA) estimates that approximately 40% of firefighter suicides are reported. If these estimates are accurate, the actual number of 2017 suicides would be approximately equal to 257, which is more than twice

space are all factors that militate against the voluntary relinquishment of firearms to law enforcement agencies. Public storage lockers may be an option in some states, but lack of climate-controlled storage could cause firearms to rust or mildew. Even where it is legally allowed, many public storage companies have policies forbidding firearms.⁷

*Utilizing gun shops for storage*⁸ -- not the problematic solution of giving firearms to a friend -- was a clear answer to the question regarding safekeeping during a crisis. Gun shops have existing, legal, firearms-purposed storage available. Unlike storage in law enforcement agencies, first responders are able to responsibly store their firearm during a mental health crisis without being stigmatized by their co-workers. Furthermore, gun shop owners know their customers, care about their well-being, and have it in their business' interest to prevent suicide and firearms negligence.

Hold My Guns would not only provide an opportunity for gun shops to utilize their businesses for the further betterment of their communities, it would create an appertunant platform for gun shops to offer *educational programs* to their communities regarding mental health and suicide awareness to a demographic that is understandably sensitive to the topic in a cultural climate where mental illness is blamed exaggeratedly for mass shootings⁹.

Creating a nationwide, voluntary crisis firearms storage program is not only *feasible* but easily *scalable* -- the infrastructure *already exists*.

How Does 'Hold My Guns' Work? My aforementioned friend, Ms. Jones, who is a certified Range Safety Officer and firearms instructor, and I discussed the idea for Hold My Guns. She

the number of firefighters who died in the line of duty." See, https://rudermanfoundation.org/white_papers/police-officers-and-firefighters-are-more-likely-to-die-by-suicide-than-in-line-of-duty/

⁷ "Firearms. The majority of storage companies will not permit you to store guns or ammunition in their storage facility. If a facility does permit this, you will be required to adhere to strict security guidelines." https://www.relocation.com/library/storage_guide/storage_restrictions.html

⁸ See, "Law Enforcement and Gun Retailers as Partners for Safely Storing Guns to Prevent Suicide: A Study in 8 Mountain West States." <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304013>

⁹ A pernicious and false but increasingly common message promoted in the media is that people with mental illness are prone to violence in general and are responsible for mass shootings (McGinty et al. 2014b, 2016b). Studies consistently indicate that, even among mass murders and shootings, mental illness is a factor in a minority of these events (Duwe 2004, Fox & DeLateur 2014, Stone 2015, Taylor 2016, Vossekuil et al. 2002). Nonetheless, the notion that mental illness drives these events is stoked regularly, and the impact of this trend in US media coverage of violence is so significant that it is now seen to be distorting perceptions even outside of the United States (Jorm & Reavley 2014). The notoriety given to mass shootings and the link made to mental illness have two effects. First, they promote stigma by conflating mental illness and violence—a bias that affects patients, providers, the public, and policy makers (Clement et al. 2015, Corrigan et al. 2005, Price & Khubchandani 2016). Second, they distract the public and policy makers from dealing with the issues of violence and mental illness, and gun violence in particular, in an empirically grounded, frank way. The simplistic model of mental illness driving mass shootings or violent crime leads to a simplistic, politically popular, but ineffectual policy solution: provide more mental health services (Gold 2013, Pinals et al. 2015). Who could reasonably be against that idea? Policy makers and politicians are attracted to this solution because it helps them avoid more complicated and politically treacherous debates about effective limits on gun ownership, tracking, or registration. Given the overloaded state of current mental health services, mental health professionals are certainly tempted to endorse this solution and to take such funds, even knowing that access to mental health services will have little impact on gun violence, mass shootings, or violence in general. Such Faustian bargains have foreseeable consequences, though, including increased stigma for mentally ill individuals and the diversion of necessary resources from better interventions (Rozel 2016). Policies intending to mitigate gun violence risk by narrowly focusing on the narrow intersection between mental illness and mass shootings will be intrinsically limited in scope and utility and may potentially disrupt effective elements of the mental health system (Appelbaum 2013, Metz & MacLeish 2015). See, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5784421/>.

introduced me to a Pennsylvania attorney specializing in firearms law and civil rights. When I presented to him the plan for crisis storage via gun shops, he researched the matter and determined that it was indeed a legally-sound approach to reduce suicide risk and firearms negligence.

He advised me to use the ATF Regulations for Consignment Returns:

Firearms received for sale on consignment must be entered in the licensee's acquisition and disposition record. The sale of a consignment firearm is handled in the same manner as other firearm sales. Return of any consigned firearms by the licensee to the consignor must be entered in the licensee's disposition record. An ATF Form 4473 and a NICS check must be completed prior to the return of such firearms. [18 U.S.C. 923(g); 27 CFR 478.122, 478.123, 478.124 and 478.125]

Additionally, our gun shop partners must be required, of course, to follow all federal, state, and local laws. Despite strict adherence, there is still realistically a chance for civil lawsuits. This remains a concern amongst our storage partners. There may be an opportunity for lawmakers to participate by reducing liability to gun shops providing this nonmedical emergency care.

A customer desiring storage would bring their firearm to the Hold My Guns storage partner. As per the ATF Regulations, the customer would provide required identifying information to be entered into the A&D record, and sign an acknowledgment that they are the legal owner of the firearm, the scope of the storage agreement, any notes on the condition of the firearm, the value of the firearm, and a transparent fee schedule should the customer desire to sell the firearm under consignment or continue to store the firearm long-term. Additionally, the customer must acknowledge by signature at the time of drop-off that they will be required to fill out an ATF 4473 Form and that a background check is required at the time of pickup, as per ATF regulations and Hold My Guns policy. The customer will be given a brochure regarding the Hold My Guns program, which will include mental health and suicide prevention resources, and any related educational programs offered by the gun shop.

Storage partners should be aware that the transaction must be treated with utmost professional attitude, preferably with a manager present, *and that the gun owner may not be the one experiencing the crisis in the home*. The gun owner should be supported in their decision to ensure that their firearm does not negligently fall into the hands of someone experiencing acute crises.

Yet, the goal of Hold My Guns is not limited to simply storing firearms as Good Samaritans. The larger goal is teamwork through an alliance of community resources, so that gun owners and their families can be made aware, through the local gun shop where they have established trust, that they are supported in their time of need and have options to choose from. Their community cares about them, and they are not alone.

Hold My Guns storage partners will be encouraged to provide information to their communities regarding their storage and educational offerings. By working with local medical and mental health professionals, veterans organizations, community organizations, first responders, law enforcement agencies, guidance counselors, etc., they can together reduce the stigma around

firearms and mental illness. Through their mutual referrals, they may connect those suffering from a mental health or personal crisis with resources and neighborly support.

Hold My Guns Pilot Program Launch

After recently meeting fundraising goals to cover the legal formation of a corporation in Pennsylvania, which is on the path to becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the pilot program is set to launch by early 2020.

In the meantime, we are forming strong alliances with the stakeholder groups mentioned in the section above. We are working to form our Executive and Advisory Boards, which are set to include caring professionals representing stakeholder demographics.

Hold My Guns: Already Making a Difference

The nonpartisan, non-legislative approach of simply utilizing existing community resources to provide crisis storage and empower individuals to make personal choices for their own care has received much support from within the gun community and medical/mental health communities alike.

The very mention of liberty-based Hold My Guns has sparked conversations within the medical and mental health communities about the ways our program could help to “meet the patient where they are” and improve clinician-patient rapport and treatment outcomes from a starting position that respects the patient’s dignity and rights.

Additionally, there is a knowledge gap that exists between some health professionals and an understanding of firearms that may hinder their work. It has been proposed that Hold My Guns would be welcomed to work with medical and mental health professionals to bridge this gap and provide training that would equip them to speak knowledgeably and with cultural sensitivity¹⁰ on the topic of firearms. Furthermore, this training would help to reduce the stigma and provide talking points and safer storage options within the at-risk medical community, where instances of suicide by firearms¹¹ are the *highest rate compared to any other profession* according to a 2018 study.

Conclusion

On an average day in the United States, more than 100 Americans die by suicide; over half of these suicides involve the use of firearms - a statistic consistent within our Commonwealth.^{12, 13}

¹⁰ See, “Physician Counseling on Firearm Safety A New Kind of Cultural Competence”
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4559221/>

¹¹ “The number of doctor suicides -- 28 to 40 per 100,000 -- is more than twice that of the general population, new research shows. The rate in the general population is 12.3 per 100,000. Doctors who die by suicide often have untreated or undertreated depression or other mental illnesses, a fact that underscores the need for early diagnosis and treatment, says study researcher Deepika Tanwar, MD, of the psychiatric program at Harlem Hospital Center in New York. “It’s very surprising” that the suicide rate among physicians is higher than among those in the military, which is considered a very stressful occupation, Tanwar says. The findings were presented at the American Psychiatric Association (APA) 2018 annual meeting. See, “Doctors’ Suicide Rate Highest of Any Profession” <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/news/20180508/doctors-suicide-rate-highest-of-any-profession#1>

¹²Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2013.

¹³ “While all types of violence must be addressed, guns account for...52 percent of fatal suicides in Pennsylvania.” See, Executive Order – 2019-06- Reducing Gun Violence
<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/pennsylvania-governor-wolf-to-sign-sweeping-executive-order-to-reduce-gun-violence/>

Some of the highest professions plagued by firearms-related deaths, due to the stressful nature of their jobs as they tirelessly serve our communities, are Pennsylvania's doctors, first responders, and those who are or have been in the Armed Services. These individuals, like all Americans, deserve to be met with support and camaraderie during times of mental illness and personal crises, which can occur without warning, *not* with more stigma and the threat of taking away constitutional rights without due process through secret *ex parte* hearings associated with Extreme Risk Protection Orders, *aka* Red Flag Laws.

It may be of interest to note that the State of Maine recently addressed similar concerns as Pennsylvania's through an incident-based protocol (instead of immediate removal of rights due to anonymous testimony) in situations where someone is *actively threatening harm*, to be brought into protective custody, immediately evaluated by a psychiatrist, and to be present and involved in every step of due process.¹⁴

Pennsylvania is nicknamed the "Keystone State" not only because of its shape, but also for its integral role in securing America's freedom. In our precious city of Brotherly Love, signers of the Declaration of Independence mutually pledged to one another their "Lives, Fortunes and sacred Honor." Given our strong cultural heritage of Independence and liberty in Pennsylvania, how might we apply these truths to the topics of today's public hearing? Do we look out for our neighbors, whose difficult circumstances could easily be our own, and offer to support them while they are struggling with depression and suicidal ideations? Do we say in mutual solidarity, "I pledge my Life, Fortune, and sacred Honor to you!" or, do we wash our hands without interaction? Without coming alongside of our neighbors to provide resources and offer to go with them to get help, and instead leave it up to our first responders, a demographic already at the top of the suicide-risk statistics, to do the dirty-work and put their lives on the line to surprise our neighbors at 5AM (Gary Willis of Maryland)¹⁵ (Ralph Shnelvar of Colorado)¹⁶ with orders to confiscate their firearms as the first line of care? Without our neighbors ever having had the opportunity to go before a judge and speak for themselves?

For Pennsylvanians, the latter is a step backward toward the very tyranny from which we broke free. Declaration of Independence signer John Adams wrote, "Representative government and trial by jury are the heart and lungs of liberty. Without them we have no other fortification against being ridden like horses, fleeced like sheep, worked like cattle, and fed and clothed like swine and hounds."¹⁷ Having the right to go before a judge, to be present when matters of our civil rights are at stake, underscores and respects our inalienable human dignity. It is what separates us from Adam's livestock. It is from that place of respect and dignity, which includes voluntary options and due process, that we can begin to change a culture "scourged" as

¹⁴ An Act To Enhance Personal and Public Safety by Requiring Evaluations of and Judicial Hearings for Persons in Protective Custody Regarding Risk of Harm and Restricting Access to Dangerous Weapons. See, http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0612&item=1&snum=129&utm_source=Copy+of+LD+1811

¹⁵ See, Law-abiding gun Owner Killed During Red Flag Confiscation Raid <https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/constitution/item/30567-law-abiding-gun-owner-killed-during-red-flag-confiscation-raid>

¹⁶ See, A Disservice To Suicidal Individuals: CO's Red Flag ERPO Law Will Only Exacerbate A Crisis <https://www.rallyforourrights.com/category/emergency-risk-protection-order-erpo/>

¹⁷ <https://www.wvaj.org/index.cfm?pg=HistoryTrialbyJury>

Governor Wolf put it in his recent Executive Order¹⁸, by gun-related deaths, *over half of which are suicides*.

Working together as a community to help those who are hurting is the very mission of Hold My Guns. This is something to which all Pennsylvanians - and all Americans - can mutually pledge to one another. Together, in true Pennsylvanian tradition, we can tackle this “scourge” and reduce suicide with liberty-based options, and thereby continue to protect our human dignity, and uphold our inalienable rights.

With my Life, Fortune, and sacred Honor,

Sarah Joy Albrecht
Founder, Hold My Guns
Coatesville, Pennsylvania
sarah@holdmyguns.org

¹⁸ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/executive-order-2019-06-reducing-gun-violence/>

Appendix - Note from Supporters

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Some thoughts on your amazing organization

Date: Sun, 15 Sep 2019 21:58:15 -0700

From: Colby C. *[full name and email address withheld for privacy]*

To: sarah@holdmyguns.org

Sarah,

I would like to take a moment to thank you for the unprecedented and profound work your organization Hold My Guns is doing.

I am a firefighter, I work in a suburb of Seattle for a relatively small department. My coworkers are avid outdoorsmen, hunters, and veterans. A stereotypical firehouse atmosphere of “macho” fraternal bonding resounds through the halls. We love it and we love each other. This was all our dream job, and for the veterans a way to transition to the civilian world and maintain a sense of brotherhood in day to day life.

This job brings us tremendous joy, but carries with it a secret burden. Something that’s been lurking and building for years. Something no one ever tells you about when they say they have the greatest job in the world. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I knew it was out there waiting for its next victim. Yet still I never dreamed it could touch my circle.

On September 11, 2019, my Captain, my brother and one of my best friends took his own life with a handgun. His name is Captain Eric Boutwell. He is survived by his loving wife and two amazing young daughters that he loved with all his heart.

As the news of his tragic death spread through our tight knit family one question lingered. Why? You see, none of us had any clue or indication that Eric was fighting the demon we were all watching out for.

Pondering why he did this, I had a few thoughts related to your organization Hold My Guns. If Eric knew about your organization would he have used it? Would we still be planning an elk hunting trip right now? Was he too scared to say anything in fear of the stigma and negative consequences that could follow?

What negativity could come from asking for help in your darkest hour? You see Washington state just passed I-1639. A law which now forces an individual to waive their HIPPA rights in order to exercise a human right. This is the same kind of red flag laws our elected representatives on a federal level are proposing. These laws only make people suffering and searching for help more afraid and unwilling to step forward. Based on gun violence records the overwhelming majority of gun deaths are suicide. So knowing this we know these “red flag laws” won’t even dent the mass shootings and gun violence we all want to end.

Here is where Hold My Guns comes into play. You are an organization of second amendment supporters understanding that people are suffering and scared. You don't think people with PTSD or depression are dangerous, angry time bombs. You provide someone scared with a safe place to store their firearms during their darkest hour. They know they can do this safely because you value their right to bear arms. They don't need to be worried about an FBI SRT team breaking down their door at 0330hrs because they talked to a therapist about their night terrors. People with PTSD and depression need to be able to give their guns to someone and know that when they have conquered their demons their property and right to self defense is still safe and secure. Thank you for giving people an avenue to feel their rights will remain secure without the bureaucracy of arbitrary application of unconstitutional laws.

Eric was an amazing leader, loving father, an attentive husband and an even better friend. One thing that bonded us so closely was his love of freedom and the principles that founded and once guided this nation. He was a profound advocate of the second amendment, he enjoyed shooting and hunting. Above these joys afforded by second amendment he understood that these were not the reason for its existence. He knew that the right to defend one's life by any means available was a right granted by virtue of human existence.

Sarah thank you again for the work you and your organization are doing. If even one life is saved by your mission it is a success beyond that of flight or electricity!

-Colby Cruz

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Thank you for Listening!

Date: Wed, 24 Apr 2019 16:20:32 -0700

From: Jordan W. *[full name and email address withheld for privacy]*

To: Sarah@HoldMyGuns.org

Hi Sarah,

I am so happy that you called in and connected with me! I wanted to share a bit of my background with you and express my gratitude for what you have chosen to do with your newly founded entity. As you know, many people have struggled with depression and suicidal ideation, thus resulting in the temporary or permanent loss of firearm rights. For obvious reasons this subject matter is very difficult to open up about for a multitude of reasons, but I do hope to share my personal experience with you.

Over several years I found myself falling further and further into self loathing and depression. It came in waves for me... and almost two years ago, exactly, I found myself in a situation I wish never occurred... It was a single isolated incident, in which I expressed my feelings to a friend, who in turn contacted local law enforcement in fear of my own life.

Within an hour or so the police escorted me to a crisis facility, which is a kind word for insane asylum, and I was monitored for 15 hours as a "danger to self". It was the longest 15 hours of my life... and my first exposure to the "system" on any level. I've never been in trouble,

and I didn't do anything wrong, so my ignorance led to my honesty. I admitted to having severe suicidal ideations to an officer, who took me in for this evaluation.

In California the code is known as a "5150", very popular in pop culture for a crazy, deranged, or unstable person. During my stay I saw things in other patients that pretty much scared the depression out of me. The entire process was absolutely horrifying... I was lucky in hindsight, they quickly recognized my stay at the facility would do more harm than good. Fortunately, they let me go almost immediately, in comparison with the many others in the same situation.

Despite my short stay, the fact that they checked me in as "danger to self" flagged a 5 year probationary period from owning firearms within California, so I have 3 years left to wait. I have never owned a gun anyways (or shot one), so I am fine with just waiting, compared to fighting it in court. Naturally I want my rights back, and I am not opposed to trying out the range in a few years. What hurts me is the associated stigmas, and fear that my stay may have adverse impacts on my life later on. So I researched this topic obsessively, looking for anything bad that could come out of it. Obviously, anything pertaining to working with firearms is likely no longer an option, which I accept because I had no interest anyways... I guess I tell you this because many states are adopting policies similar to California, who host some of the most strict gun laws in the country. The number of prohibited individuals are climbing, and it will not slow down.

I know you will help so many people. Range shooting is a passion for many, and losing that right would be devastating for someone with that interest. Especially for those who are sane and experience a single isolated incident, resulting in a temporary or permanent loss of gun rights. I have met a lot of people who have experienced something like this. I imagine there are so many more who are afraid to bring up the topic. I truly believe what you are going to do will save many lives over time, and circumventing the typical procedure will help people process things. I hope to help in a small way by assisting with anything you need. Thank you so much for being the person you are Sarah!

I know, trust, and pray that God will use you in this capacity. You truly are a life-saver!

Very best regards!

Jordan

\$5,000 Goal Met! GoFundMe.com/hmgorg Donors & Public Comments
8/13/2019 - gofundme.com/hmgorg

Bill Kwak donated \$145, **Douglas Rogahn** donated \$50-11 hr, **Blue Alpha Gear** donated \$250-22 hr, **Private Donor** donated \$20-1 d, **Kevin Krumwiede** donated \$250-1 d, **Alejandro Galan** donated \$10-1 d, **Team Albrecht** donated \$100-2 d, **Private Donor** donated \$100-2 d, **Private Donor** donated \$25-2 d, **Private Donor** donated \$20-2 d I have loved ones with mental illnesses. I love the Second Amendment. I hope you can help our loved ones and protect our rights. It shouldn't be an either or decision. May God Bless You. **Private Donor** donated \$25-2 I believe in what you are doing. Over the years I have lost friends to suicide, some that were visibly depressed and others where there were no visible external signs. A program such as this, in combination with professional help and guidance, will save lives! I live in Central Pa and would be willing to become an active member of your organization - I have experience with multiple nonprofit and for-profit BOD's. Thank you for what you are doing!, **Eric Spear** donated \$25-2 d It is an effort well worth supporting. We don't need the government getting involved where we can come up with solutions ourselves. Great idea that will potentially save lives!, **Private Donor** donated \$5-2 d This is a great idea., **Becky Fulmer** donated \$50-3 d Having your guns taken away truly is a scary thought for most. What an awesome and creative alternative for those suffering from mental illness! **Brad Higgins** donated \$100-3d, **Timothy Knight** donated \$100-5d, **Jason Bower** donated \$5-5 Being a person that lost my brother to suicide, I truly believe programs like this would truly help. I hope this to go Nationwide., **John Crump** donated \$25-8 d, **Kerry Slone** donated \$100-11 d, **Private Donor** donated \$500-11d **I served as an active duty US Army Medical Officer for 8 years as a psychiatrist. I took away access to weapons every day for suicidal service members. I currently work in the civilian sector as a psychiatrist. Whenever I place a patient on an involuntary hold in California, I strip them of their ability to purchase/have weapons. I worry about my domestic violence and substance abusing patients... I love shooting and am pro-2a, but have been torn about the issue of Red Flag Laws as I know I would rather err on the side of gun removal in an active situation. It would help my fellow clinicians and myself to have an established process to have patients voluntarily offer to store their weapons in a safe place, especially when they don't have trusted friends or family members. I am excited to see how your pilot works out. Thanks for being an innovator and an advocate for mental health and 2A.** **Christopher Kou** donated \$10-13 d I care about both the health and wellbeing of people and their 2nd amendment rights., **Jason Radspinner** donated \$50-14 d, **Gerry Summey** donated \$25-14 d, **Daniel Prazer** donated \$35-14 d, **Douglas Rogahn** donated \$50-16 d, **Elise Letizia** donated \$15-21 d, **Alexandra Pollack** donated \$50-24 d, **Sharon Curcio** donated \$100-24 d I donated because Sarah Albrecht is an amazing, responsible person who loves her country and her family. She is serious about protecting our right to bear arms and is a professional health-care provider--the perfect combination for the leadership role of Hold My Guns. May God bless your efforts, Sarah Joy!, **The Gun Collective** donated \$500-26 d Some of this funding came from our audience of the TGC podcast, the rest is because I believe in the mission., **Matthew MILLER** donated \$20-26 d, **Timothy Knight** donated \$100-26 d, **Douglas Rogahn** donated \$50-28 d I believe in what you're doing. Here is another \$50 to help you get the 2nd half of the way., **Cj Redman** donated \$10-29 d, **Christian Enevoldsen** donated \$60-29 d I donated because so many people are all talk when it comes to guns and mental health. This is an initiative that puts a step

forward towards the "what can we do for mental health and guns" before we all sit idle and wait for "what will the government do to us?" Mental health concerns aren't a "them" problem, it's an everyone issue. **Private Donor** donated \$25-1 mo I donated because I hate government intervention and believe we as a community need to help each other out as much as possible., **Private Donor** donated \$25-1 mo, I donated because of a family member that took his own life with a gun. **Jeremy Ruthig** donated \$20-1 mo, **Katie Fuller** donated \$75-1 mo, **Neal Archbold** donated \$20-1 mo, **Rebekah Albrecht** donated \$100-1 mo, **Alex Holladay** donated \$50-1 mo, **Douglas Rogahn** donated \$50-1 mo, **Terry Johnson** donated \$25-1 mo Great job on the TGC podcast 63! If you haven't #63 is a must listen., **Daniel Treadwell** donated \$50-1 mo This is an amazing program that needs to happen. I just wanted to contribute in some way even if it is small., **Hawkeye Gunguy** donated \$50-1 mo Mental health is something I want to work at advocating for and I'm putting my money where my mouth is., **Israel Long** donated \$54-1 mo Matching the \$54 from tonight's TGC Podcast Livestream! :), **Private Donor** donated \$20-1 mo I saw the TGC Livestream and thought this is a worthy cause., **Waverly Hill** donated \$50-1 mo, **Israel Long** donated \$50-1 mo Sarah and Genevieve have an awesome idea and this needs to happen asap :), **Henry Mar** donated \$40-1 mo, **Liv4Freedom 1776** donated \$50-1 mo Keep up the good work! **Spencer Petersen** donated \$5-1 mo Hold My Guns is doing work that should have been done long ago. Years back, I was unexpectedly fired from my job, and while I wasn't depressed or suicidal, I was panicked. Because I had dealt with depression in the past, I had the foresight to call my buddy and have him hold on to my guns until I had a clearer mind and a better read on the situation I was in. Some people don't have that ability, whether because of lack of social support, or because their local laws simply do not allow it. Giving people (and their friends, family, and healthcare providers) an option to handle their firearms during a time of crisis that leaves them in control can remove a huge barrier to getting the help that they need, without having the fear of not being able to get their firearms back., **Private Donor** donated \$500-1 mo, **Cameron hays** donated \$50-1 mo, **Armintha Dover** donated \$25-1 mo , **Private Donor** donated \$51-1 mo Thank you for creating this strategic and important non-profit organization! I regularly pray for (and try to support) everyone involved in suicide prevention, especially for our veterans. Wish I could give more. Thanks again!, **Kent Hower** donated \$100-1 mo, **Michael Sodini** donated \$100-1 mo, **Dave Miller** donated \$50-1 mo It is a good work **Jon Charbonnet** donated \$50-1 mo **Shannon McCorison** donated \$25-2 mo, **Randall Markgraf** donated \$50-2 mo **Christopher Osburn** donated \$100-2 mo, I own guns and struggle with depression. This would be an important service to me at times, and help avoid "state" involvement, **Timothy Ramsey** donated \$50-2 mo, **Benjamin Mitchell** donated \$20-2 mo Giving people an opportunity to be personally responsible is important., **Javas Vandeway** donated \$10-2 mo