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READERS' VIEWS

Look at cause of gun violence

I wholeheartedly agree with Lori Strosnider's desire to see a reduction in gun violence in New Orleans. Where we disagree is on the question of how to achieve this goal.

On April 17, while attending a meeting in the state Legislature, I and dozens of other Home Defense Foundation members witnessed how the group Lori is affiliated with, "Moms Demand Action," thought this goal could be accomplished. On that day, "Moms Demand Action" urged members of the Legislature to reduce gun violence by imposing new restrictions on the types of firearms law abiding citizens could purchase and when those purchases could be made.

For example, the group supported House Bill 400, which would have established a 10-day waiting period for the purchase of a firearm and would have made a violation of the waiting period punishable by as much as five years in prison.

That bill was defeated. If it had passed, how many criminals do you think would have complied with it? All that bill would have "accomplished" would have been to make it harder for an honest homeowner or taxpayer to purchase a firearm.

The way to reduce "gun violence," I suggest, is to look at the cause. The cause is not the conduct of honest homeowners or taxpayers who would follow new gun laws. Rather, the cause is criminal conduct — and criminals will not follow new gun laws because they are not in the habit of following laws, period. That is why we call them criminals. They violate the law.

Ask yourself this question: When reading about a shooting or carjacking, how often do you learn that the shooter or carjacker has a totally clean record? How often do you hear that this is the very first crime he has committed? The answer is:



ADVOCATE FILE PHOTO BY BRAD BOWIE- Rhonda Gleason, with Moms for Action, speaks during the March for Our Lives on March 24 in Lafayette.

very rarely. Most often, "gun violence" is committed by hardened criminals who have been arrested and convicted many times before.

If you really want to reduce gun violence take these hardened criminals off the street. Do not release them on parole, probation or early release programs. Do not strap an ankle monitor on them and expect them to be magically transformed into choir boys. We already follow this approach when it comes to "drunk driving violence."

We try to take drunken drivers off the road. That is logical. We don't make it harder for sober drivers to purchase or own a car. Rather, we focus on the person committing the offense. The same approach should be used when it comes to gun violence. Take people committing gun violence off the street and such violence will go down. Leave them on the street and it will continue.

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