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 **I REPEAT:
BE SMART ABOUT
GUN CONTROLS**

By Steve Bakke  August 26, 2019



The Star Tribune recently printed my letter, “Do research before legislating guns” (8/8). My message supported taking actions to reduce mass killings we all abhor, but “only with adequate information” will we successfully develop the necessary uniform, and effective laws.

A subsequent letter writer accused me of simply wanting to “wait” before taking action (8-12). That misrepresents my message. I endorsed an ambitious search for facts before we start legislating. That’s far different from waiting. Unless we do this properly, we will end up in the same place: pointing fingers, speculation, uncertainty, and inaction.

My critic also scoffed at my suggestion of having a “sensitivity to less-tangible influences such as “religion and culture,” e.g. changing morality standards, disappearing boundaries of behavior, dysfunctional lifestyles, and reduced respect for human life. He wanted hard evidence, and speculated silently about which “dysfunctional lifestyles” I’m concerned with.

I stand by my opinion that we shouldn’t dismiss less-tangible influences if they reveal themselves as part of the problem. And I’m thinking he must have misread my reference to “dysfunctional lifestyles.” I must remind him that I didn’t use the term “alternate lifestyles.” Examples of “dysfunctional lifestyles” should occur to all, irrespective of political persuasion.