

Some facts the Million Mom March *doesn't* want you to know.

This year the MMM will be asking you to support their cause. Before you decide, there are a few facts that you should consider.

The truth about the 12 kids a day that they claim die from guns. In order to arrive this number, they had to include 18 and 19 year old adults – an age group that involves many violent criminals who kill each other or die by defensive gunfire from police or armed citizens. The MMM want you to think, that these are innocent kids who find unattended guns, play with them, and shoot playmates by accident. The actual number, including suicides and accidents, is much less. Among persons aged 0-15 (ages most would consider to be "children"), there were 972 gun-related deaths in 1997 (including suicide, murders and accidents). That's less than 3 deaths per day.

But what about accidental shootings? Actually these are extremely rare. In 1997, there were a total of 138 accidental shootings of children aged 0-14, resulting in 0.38 deaths per day. And while no child's death is acceptable, this is a tiny fraction of the 10 to 13 deaths per day claimed by MMM. That is even less than the number of children who drown in buckets each day.

Yet, wouldn't we all be safer if there were fewer guns? Not according to the Department of Justice data. After examining the correlation between guns and crime in over 3,000 U.S. counties (not just a selected few) from 1977 to 1992, an interesting pattern becomes evident. The 31 states that adopted "shall issue" concealed carry handgun laws actually reduced murders by

7.7 %, rapes by 5%, aggravated assaults by 7% and robbery by 3%. If the rest of the states had permitted similar handgun laws, it is estimated that citizens would have been spared approximately 1,570 murders, 4,177 rapes, 60,000 aggravated assaults and 12,000 robberies. Those areas of the country where firearms are more readily available have a lower violent crime rate than areas of minimal firearm ownership.

Don't guns kill thousands of people each year? Actually, FBI crime statistics show that fully two-thirds of the people who die each year from gunfire are criminals shooting other criminals. Locking up the criminals would dramatically reduce the number of people killed each year and would make our neighborhoods and communities safer. Furthermore as nationwide firearm ownership increased between 1993 and 1997, the homicide rate decreased 29 percent.

What about licensing or registering handguns? Registering handguns serves no crime-fighting purpose. It only makes life more difficult for honest citizens who seek only to protect themselves and their families. Most violent criminals obtain their guns on the black market and never register their guns. For this reason, even if a firearm is recovered from a crime scene, it is rarely traced back to the criminal. But there is an even bigger problem with registering handguns. Making honest citizens instant criminals. In years past, New York City and Washington D.C. required all residents to register their handguns. Later when politicians banned the ownership of firearms, they had a ready-made list of gun owners to visit.

Self-defense is a basic human right. Everyone has an inalienable, constitutional and natural right to defend themselves, and no one needs a license to exercise this right. Being armed with a firearm *is*

the safest response to a violent criminal. Victims who defend themselves with a firearm suffer lower rates of injury than do those who resist without a firearm, and even lower than those who comply with a criminal's demands. Often, the mere brandishing of a firearm to a criminal was enough to thwart the crime. That is why many MMM spokespersons, such as Rosie O'Donnell, protect *their* families with guns

The real goal of the Million Mom March. This so-called "grass roots" organization was founded by Donna Dees-Thomases, a close friend of Hillary Clinton. They originally claimed 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in early 2000, (the same tax status as a church or educational organization). But, after the presidential election they converted to a Political Action Committee. Its obvious all along that their real purpose was to support Albert Gore's Presidential campaign by turning out the "soccer mom" vote. This could put corporate sponsors in violation of Federal election law

Theft of taxpayer resources. Since 1995 the MMM have deliberately defrauded the City and County of San Francisco by obtaining huge amounts of office space and logistical support from San Francisco General Hospital under false pretenses. These are resources that could have gone to AIDS research or children burn prevention. Only recently was this charade exposed and they were asked to leave. (4/12/01 - SF Examiner)

It's a very profitable business, for some. According to their tax disclosure forms a large amount of their 600K budget goes to pay salaries and benefits of their directors. But you aren't getting a salary, are you? If they believe in their cause then why aren't they volunteering *their* time?

Don't let your child be a victim of their lies.