



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on May 7, 2024

Published in the May 27, 2024 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 40, No. 10

Exercising the Right

Feds Promote Red Flag Laws

The U.S. Department of Justice announced on March 23 that it established what it calls a “National Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Resource Center,” which it claims will “provide training and technical assistance to law enforcement officials, prosecutors, attorneys, judges, clinicians, victim service and social service providers, community organizations, and behavioral health professionals responsible for implementing laws designed to keep guns out of the hands of people who pose a threat to themselves or others.”

To paraphrase Newton’s third law, every political action can cause an equal and opposite reaction. Fox8.com reported on April 11 that 19 state attorneys general (AGs) sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland criticizing the ERPO Resource Center as a threat to the Second Amendment.

The letter pulled no punches when it took the Biden administration to task for using “a program that pushes for the more aggressive use of so-called ‘red flag’ gun laws.” The AGs claimed that the ERPO center will hide “under your Department’s umbrella” while it “aids officials in stripping Second Amendment rights using anti-gun laws in certain localities that allow for the seizure of firearms via civil proceedings.”

The AGs then proceeded to systematically dismantle the notion that ERPOs, also known as red flag laws, accomplish their purported goals. The letter cited multiple studies finding no link between the enactment of red flag laws and any corresponding decrease in violent crime, explaining that such laws might actually increase the chance of deadly violence by “forcing confrontations between law-abiding citizens and law enforcement officers.” The AGs then bemoaned the potential of ERPOs to “empower governmental authorities to suspend fundamental rights under the Second Amendment with no genuine due process — while also stigmatizing persons with mental health issues along the way.”

The letter even mentioned how red flag orders “can be issued against persons who show no genuine threat, can be imposed for extended periods of time, and can be sought for reasons as minimal as ‘overblown political rhetoric on social media.’” The AGs also astutely pointed out that multiple constitutional liberties are endangered by ERPOs. The letter persuasively explained that “it’s not just the Second Amendment that’s at risk. How can officers enter a home and seize a gun without a warrant in a way that’s consistent with the Fourth Amendment? How can ex parte proceedings unconnected to any criminal wrongdoing or criminal investigation be good enough under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments when they lead to firearms seizures? Both questions have the same answer: They can’t.”

One of the most damning accusations in the letter is that the DOJ has partnered with partisan organizations to push an anti-Second Amendment agenda. The AGs proclaimed, “your Department has partnered up with anti-gun ideologues who perceive essential Second Amendment protections to be inconsistent with American values. In short, your new Resource Center is flawed in multiple, basic ways. We urge you to put an immediate stop to this program.”

This battle is just warming up. There’s no telling where things will go from here, but it’s heartening for supporters of the Second Amendment to see so many high-ranking officials rising up to resist this alarming threat.



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on May 7, 2024

Published in the May 27, 2024 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 40, No. 10

Heroic Act of Self-preservation

A story out of Boise, Idaho, shows that people can engage in armed self-defense at any age. Idahonews.com reported on April 12 about an 85-year-old Idaho woman bravely fighting back against a violent home break-in.

Christine Jenneiahn was home at night on March 13, with her disabled son sleeping downstairs, when she was awakened in the middle of the night by a masked intruder pointing a 9mm handgun and flashlight in her face. The burglar, later identified as Derek Condon, then handcuffed her to a chair and pistol-whipped her while demanding she tell him where he could find valuables in her house. He threatened to kill her, then ran off to search where she told him she kept valuables in her basement.

Jenneiahn dragged the chair with her into another room, where she retrieved a .357 Magnum revolver. She then hurried back to her bedroom, where Condon would be expecting her once he returned from the basement. She concealed the gun between sofa cushions so Condon wouldn't see it once he entered the bedroom.

When Condon returned, Jenneiahn pulled the .357 out from the couch cushions and shot the burglar twice in his chest. The mortally wounded Condon shot back, hitting Jenneiahn multiple times, but he collapsed on the scene and died from his gunshot wounds. Jenneiahn was seriously wounded and lay on the floor for almost 10 hours before her disabled son came upstairs and gave her a phone, which she used to call 911.

The Bingham County prosecutor's office investigated the case and issued a press release stating that Jenneiahn was justified in her actions, praising her as a hero. Bingham County Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Jolley explained in his publicly released statement: "This case presents an easy analysis of self-defense and justifiable homicide. It also presents one of the most heroic acts of self-preservation I have heard of.... Any reasonable person would believe it necessary to defend themselves or their disabled child under such circumstances. That Christine survived this encounter is truly incredible. Her grit, determination, and will to live appear to be what saved her that night. Absent a clear attempt by [Condon] to retreat from the residence or surrender, which based on the evidence clearly did not occur, Christine was justified in taking any and all means necessary to defend herself and her son that night.... I find that Christine acted in justifiable self-defense and that [Condon's] death was justifiable homicide pursuant to Idaho law."



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on May 7, 2024

Published in the May 27, 2024 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 40, No. 10

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.