Reassess anti-gun policies

Finally, an AAP president who makes sense on the subject of firearms. Congratulations to Dr. Cook for his courage in confronting this issue (November, AAP News). There has been so much misinformation on this matter deliberately planted by politicians and the media.

While every death of a child is a tragedy, accidental shootings of children ages 2 to 14 are at a 25-year low, ranking below motor vehicle accidents, drowning, burns and suffocation. Most juvenile perpetrators of gun violence are inner-city gang members involved in the illicit drug trade who acquire their guns by buying them illegally on the street or stealing them.

None of the current or proposed gun control laws would have prevented any of the recent spate of high-visibility shootings. The shooters at the Colorado school broke more than 20 gun control laws before they began shooting. Gun control laws are not obeyed by disturbed individuals or criminals.

The founders of our nation were extraordinarily intelligent and visionary men. Ours is the only country in the world with a constitutional right to own guns. The Second Amendment guarantees the rights enumerated in the First Amendment. This is an individual right that has nothing to do with duck hunting or deer hunting, but is designed to protect individuals from a totalitarian form of government.

Banning certain categories of firearms is irrational. The so-called assault rifles that have been recently banned are simply semi-automatic rifles of intermediate caliber with a few features that made them appear “scary.” Semi-automatic pistols have been around since early in this century and revolvers since the Civil War. Households headed by women are often only able to defend themselves with handguns. Do we want our wives, daughters or mothers to wait on a 911 response? Guns are used far more often to prevent crimes of violence than in the commission of crimes.

We ignore the lessons of history at our own peril. Dictators of the right and left have made gun control an early priority. Early in World War II, British citizens pleaded with Americans to send them rifles, shotguns and pistols to defend themselves against Nazi Germany. Sadly, the British government seems to have forgotten this tragic chapter in its history and recently banned several categories of firearms. Fine, old gun manufacturers like Colt, part of our “arsenal of democracy,” are on the verge of bankruptcy due to the absurd gun control laws and the frivolous lawsuits filed by big-city mayors attempting to blame the gun companies for misuse of guns.

Hopefully the AAP leadership will now begin a reassessment of its anti-gun policies.

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