

Mr. Jehrin Clark,

Mike Sodini introduced us in January at the *NSSF SHOT Show*®. He mentioned your position on the Advisory Board for *Walk the Talk America*, though I noticed you're [listed there as "J. Hood"](#). Later, you reached out to me via email regarding *Pause to Protect*, [where you go by "Jehrin Clark"](#). You asked for the opportunity to share more about your work and even invited me to give you a video endorsement, but due to scheduling conflicts, we never met. For what it's worth, and I will explain in this note, I would never endorse *Pause to Protect*.

On September 26th, I was astonished and blindsided while reading the [Biden-Harris Administration's Executive Orders](#) on gun control. I noticed a hyperlink labeled "federally funded program" under the section "*Facilitating Voluntary Out-of-Home Storage to Prevent Firearm Suicide*." Curious, I found that it directed me to the *Pause to Protect* website, run by University of Colorado, where Hold My Guns® was listed as a resource *without the courtesy of prior notification or permission*.

Jehrin, seeing you noted as a point of contact on the site, I looked up your previous correspondence to me and realized that the website was part of the project you had asked me to endorse.

On this same date, I was arriving in San Diego to speak at *Second Amendment Foundation's Gun Rights Policy Conference*, [where I spoke on the topic of self-governance and personal response plans](#). Several of my industry friends at the event also noticed Hold My Guns® listed on the *Pause to Protect* site and demanded an explanation. "I thought Hold My Guns was privately funded. What's going on?" they asked. It put me in the hot seat, so to speak.

What you might not realize is that the inclusion of Hold My Guns® as a named resource, especially without a caveat that we are a privately funded nonprofit, falsely implies that we receive federal funding, are part of the Biden-Harris Executive Orders, and/or are affiliated with and are endorsing *Pause to Protect*. This is not just an implied misrepresentation—it is offensive to our mission and damages our reputation with gun owners who intentionally avoid government programs and interventions. We are deliberately privately funded and will remain so to protect the privacy and rights of our FFL's customers as well as our liberty-based values.

Furthermore, featured on the *Pause to Protect* website are endorsement videos from individuals and organizations in the firearms community, all of whom I know, and who are well-acquainted with the mission of Hold My Guns® and several with whom Hold My Guns® has previously shared our contracts, processes, messaging, and standard operating procedures—in *good faith*. To be sure, NSSF's Lawrence Keane signed an NDA on behalf of their organization in 2021 to review these very artifacts.

How am I to interpret the line in the Executive Orders, '*A federally funded program has developed model guidelines, contracts, and standard operating procedures for businesses interested in providing this option,*' only to then click through to the *Pause to Protect* site and, although phrased in their own words, find the very same concepts I have openly shared with the firearms community and suicide prevention advocates listed on this page?

Hold My Guns® accomplished the heavy lifting when it comes to creating a private voluntary firearms storage solution. In 2018 our attorney Joshua Prince, Esquire, of Firearms Industry Consulting Group® (FICG®), developed a storage process to protect both FFLs and non-prohibited gun owners without federal overreach or sacrificing rights. (This was neither easy nor inexpensive, by the way.) This process was reviewed and approved by the ATF in 2019, and then codified in its [July 2023 open letter to all FFLs](#), affirming that no additional program is required for FFLs to store firearms.

In essence, Hold My Guns® fulfilled its mission.

The signal can't be stopped.

I understand that my idea has grown beyond the Hold My Guns® brand.

Voluntary storage is now standard for FFLs, as I had envisioned.

However, I want to point something out: As a federally funded program, *Pause to Protect* takes the Hold My Guns® privately funded nonprofit model and strips it of its lifeblood: the preservation of rights and individual liberty. This is a betrayal of the values held by the [393 million firearm owners](#) you claim to serve.

I have to wonder -- Did you fully disclose to [Joseph Bartozzi](#), [Kevin Dixie](#), [Devin Perkins](#), [Robyn Sandoval](#), [Mike Sodini](#), [and Tom Taylor](#) that the University of Colorado's research is funded by organizations such as a [Fund for a Safer Future](#) and the [National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research](#)—groups whose missions explicitly undermine the rights of gun owners through legal and legislative strategies?

Pause to Protect's masthead states, "Our only agenda is to prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths."

But is this truly the *only* agenda of those behind this initiative's *leadership*?

To be sure, the University of Colorado's Firearm Injury Prevention Department and its work with the [Colorado Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#) ([See also the Resource List](#)) forms a powerful combination that is part of a highly efficient *paid* research-driven machine resulting in a staggering "legislative-session record" for passing numerous [gun control legislation in Colorado](#).

Do these same endorsers know that Dr. Marian Betz, a key leadership figure in *Pause to Protect*, is the same researcher who was paid for studies promoting Extreme Risk Protection Orders ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#) - and more), *many of which these endorsers' respective organizations ardently oppose*? I would venture to say that the endorsers' customers and supporters would feel betrayed to know who is pulling the strings behind *Pause to Protect*.

Are they aware that Dr. Betz is the ["This is Our Lane"](#) advocate who publicly stood against the *NRA* in Washington, D.C., pushing for doctors to weaponize medical appointments to intrude on the privacy of gun owners?

Please know that I have interacted with Dr. Betz on several occasions at community suicide prevention initiatives, round-tables, and podcast interviews where we were mutual guests. She is intelligent, caring, and professional. I believe she genuinely cares about saving lives! However, our views on rights and legislation are *fundamentally* opposed. While she claims to be nonpartisan, she is *the* primary researcher driving *paid political efforts* that fuel legislation at both federal and state levels that ultimately criminalize and stigmatize firearm owners.

To be sure, she personally attended the Biden-Harris gun control Executive Order signing at the White House. This "honor" by the Biden-Harris administration toward both her and the University of Colorado's Firearm Injury Prevention department that she built, and who runs *Pause to Protect*, is understandable as it provided the supporting research woven into several of the Executive Orders. The Biden-Harris administration couldn't be more thrilled.

I am not thrilled.

While I in no way minimize the tragic statistic of 48,830 firearm-related deaths each year, with 27,032 being suicides (CDC, 2021), evidence also shows 1.67 million defensive gun uses annually. These are cases where firearms were used correctly to save lives. Yet these defensive gun use statistics seem to be ignored by both the Biden-Harris administration and, frankly, Dr. Betz and the University of Colorado.

The right to bear arms shall not be infringed, yet Dr. Betz and the University of Colorado are weaponizing public health to champion gun control through the papercuts of thousands of pages of anti-gun, special interest-funded research studies.

Do you think these endorsers of *Pause to Protect* would still support this federally funded program if they truly understood its leaders' role in the very gun control machine they are fighting?

Let me be absolutely clear:

Whereas:

- **Hold My Guns® is not aligned or affiliated with the Biden-Harris White House Executive Orders** on firearms or public health directives,
- **Hold My Guns® does not accept federal funding** and maintains independence from government influence,
- **Hold My Guns® does not support a "public health" top-down legislative approach** to addressing firearms-related deaths, as we advocate for a liberty-based approach of self-governance,
- **Hold My Guns® is not aligned or affiliated with the University of Colorado** or its associated programs,
- **Hold My Guns® is not part of and does not endorse Pause to Protect,**
- **Hold My Guns® has not consented to being listed as a resource for Pause to Protect,** and any such listing is unauthorized and does not reflect our mission or values.

Therefore, Hold My Guns® requires that all references to our organization be immediately removed from *Pause to Protect's* website and associated materials. The unauthorized use of our trademarked name is unacceptable and misrepresents our mission and values.

Hold My Guns® is not, and will never be, your 'credible messenger' to legitimize increased federal funding or government control over the rights of firearm owners. Our mission is, and always has been, to protect individual liberties and privacy through private, voluntary solutions—independent of political agendas and government influence.

By including Hold My Guns® in your materials without permission, you create the false impression that we endorse *Pause to Protect* and the federally funded initiatives behind it. Let me be unequivocally clear: **Hold My Guns® does not endorse *Pause to Protect*, and any implication otherwise misleads the public and our firearms community.** This unauthorized inclusion undermines the integrity of our mission and is unacceptable.

As Frederick Douglass so wisely observed, *'Find out just what any people will quietly submit to, and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them.'* We refuse to be quietly included in something that goes against our core values, and we will not allow Hold My Guns® to be falsely represented as endorsing an over-arching agenda we fundamentally oppose.

I expect immediate action to remove Hold My Guns® from all *Pause to Protect* materials and rectify this inappropriate inclusion.

Hold My Guns® is not silent, and we will not quietly submit.

Sincerely,

Sarah Joy Albrecht

Founder and Executive Director

Hold My Guns®