By all means, prevent BAD people from getting access to guns, but do no harm to the rights of good people. The Militia of the second amendment is not our current armed forces. The Militia is we the good people, we veterans, target shooters, hunters, and other patriotic people prepared to come out of the woodwork to stand and fight if needed to defend ourselves and our country. Amid bankruptcy and social collapse we may not have any armed forces or police. We might face invasion or riots for our food and water, or anarchy or tyranny from within or without. Don’t say it could never happen here. It might. We must remain prepared and well armed to ward it off (deter and prevent it if possible) or fight it off if required. We should remain well armed even if such weapons are not needed for home defense on a daily basis right now.

It is quite reasonable to require firearms safety training of good gun owners, but in order to prevent gun violence (misuse of guns), it is imperative to keep all firearms and other dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals and crazy people. Go ahead. Do that better. Much better. Criminals and crazy people will not voluntarily be good, so good people must impose restrictions on them without harming the rights of the good people. Throw the book at any criminal who misuses any firearm. Keep them out of society. Too many prisoners released from jail get weapons and resume committing crimes.

It is NOT reasonable to try to restrict firearms for good people based on magazine capacity or firearm appearances. The only bad part of a firearm is a NUT holding onto it. The Militia may need more than 30 shots to fight off a real enemy some day. Lists of firearms owners would give an enemy a hit list to attack (which has already happened many times in the history of the world). Therefore any registration lists are not a good idea.

Criminals and crazy people will not obey ANY laws you write. Do not try to disarm the GOOD people, the real Militia protected by the second amendment. Instead, do a better job of keeping BAD PEOPLE unarmed, in jail, under treatment, under control. Make it a crime to harbor a dangerous person, even a family member. You can not control dangerous weapons. All weapons are dangerous, including hammers. Reduce the motivation to commit gun violence, not just guns.

David L. Brown, Ph.D.