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Nebraskans Against Gun Violence

Nebraskans Against Gun Violence Opposes Lifetime Ban from Capitol for Non-Violent Political Speech

Lincoln, NE -- On Wednesday morning, the Nebraska legislature wiped out all city firearm ordinances (firearm preemption) across the state with the passage of LB77.

When their vote concluded, Melody Vaccaro, executive director of Nebraskans Against Gun Violence (NAGV), yelled “shame” from the balcony while pointing at the lawmaking body. She cooperated with the request to leave the balcony, and was then issued a written order by the Nebraska State Patrol that permanently bans her from the Unicameral. NAGV fully supports her act of civil disobedience and her right to political speech.

Unlike a criminal citation for civil disobedience, the lifetime ban was imposed unilaterally and without recourse for appeal. The duration and terms of the ban are arbitrary. The ban punishes Vaccaro’s protest with a permanent infringement upon her rights to assemble, to speak, and to petition her government.

NAGV believes that the events in the Unicameral today convey an alarming disdain for the health and rights of the Nebraska public. The US has averaged more than one mass shooting per day in 2023, many of which have included child victims. Gun violence has become the number one killer of U.S. children. Our children are scared of gun violence, for good reason, yet the Legislature revoked all municipal gun ordinances and passed permitless concealed carry today as teenagers and elementary schoolers watched helplessly from the balcony. Then the same Unicameral that allows heavily armed men to roam its halls then banned and barred a gun control activist for a speech act.

As a founding member and Executive Director of Nebraskans Against Gun Violence, Melody Vaccaro is passionate about advocating for policies that will make our communities safer. In 2015, she was a co-founder of NAGV and under her leadership the organization regularly partners with community leaders to educate the public on firearm laws and promote safe storage of guns to keep kids safe. In 2019, served on the Lincoln Mayor’s Safe Storage task force to study and [publish findings](#) on how firearms impact children in Lincoln. In 2020, she led a team to create the [Nebraska Firearm Report](#), the first comprehensive look at firearm data focused on Nebraska, and she represented Nebraska on gun policy during the Biden-Harris Presidential transition. Vaccaro was [personally invited](#) to the White House by President Biden in the summer of 2022 to celebrate the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act with gun control leaders from around the country. She serves on several boards, including Peace and Justice in Nebraska Schools, and the board of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. She is originally from Papillion, NE, earned a Girl

Scout Gold Award, UNOmaha graduate, and served in the United States Peace Corps in Bulgaria from 2005-2007.

Nebraskans Against Gun Violence is a 501c3 grassroots organization committed to eliminating gun violence in our communities. Learn more about the organization at www.nagv.org or follow us on social media.