

## Permitless carry will mean more suicides

### Letter to the editor

**Editor:**

Often left out of the conversation about gun rights is the issue of firearm suicides with the U.S. having about 24,000 firearm suicides in a recent year which much higher than the 15,000 gun homicides. Homicides are far more likely to be reported in the press.

Across all 50 states from 1981-2013 higher firearm ownership has caused higher firearm suicides.

With men, there is an increased suicide risk by any means, as well. Suicidal thoughts are impulses that can quickly recede, so not having

access to a firearm helps reduce the number of successful suicides.

While increased support for mental health problems is welcome, other countries with similar or even worse mental health support systems do not have the very high firearm suicide rates of the United States.

Ignoring the availability of firearms issue like Gov. Brian Kemp’s permitless carry bill does (even if it calls for more mental health support), will likely increase firearm suicides in Georgia at a time when we are all stressed by the pandemic.

Too many homes claiming

their firearms are safely stored, except for the loaded “just in case” pistol in the bedroom that is not mentioned publicly, ignore that kids access them anyway as child firearm suicide/homicide data show.

**Greg Brock Statesboro**

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