



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Quang Nguyen (R-1)

Representative Selina Bliss (R-1)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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Monday, January 6, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Representatives Nguyen & Bliss Denounce CFRT's Radical Call to Remove Firearms from Arizona Homes

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona State Representatives Quang Nguyen and Selina Bliss, Chair and Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, have issued a letter to Jennie Cunico, Cabinet Executive Officer of the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), voicing strong objections to the Arizona Child Fatality Review Team's (CFRT) recent annual report to the Legislature.

The report, which reviewed child deaths in 2023, includes CFRT's recommendation that it "believes that the most effective way to prevent firearm-related deaths in children is to **remove all firearms in households with children** because the presence of firearms in a household increases the risk of suicide among adolescents."

In their letter to ADHS, Representatives Nguyen and Bliss rightly call out CFRT's radical attack on the constitutional rights of Arizonans, equating it to attempts by other states to curtail Second Amendment freedoms:

*"We are appalled that the CFRT, speaking on behalf of the Arizona Department of Health Services, is actually advocating for stripping Arizonans of their Second Amendment rights in their own homes. This radical proposal is reminiscent of New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's [2023 gun control order](#), which attempted to prohibit carrying of firearms in public for self-defense. You may recall that Governor Grisham's order—accurately characterized as 'insanely unconstitutional' and 'outrageous'—was swiftly blocked in court.*

*"The CFRT's 'do something' approach to child-fatality legislation would not only violate the constitutional rights of millions of Arizonans; it is also irrational from a policy perspective. The CFRT's Report notes that 31 children drowned in 2023 and that the majority of these deaths occurred in pools and hot tubs. Yet the CFRT does not recommend the elimination of pools and hot tubs. Instead, the CFRT advocates for common-sense ideas: 'close, constant supervision of children when around water, increased availability and affordability of swim lessons for children, and proper pool enclosures.'*

*"Effective policy solutions—even for problems that are difficult and complex—must be designed to fully protect constitutional rights and liberties. We urge you to direct the CFRT to reconsider its unjustified attack on the Second Amendment and amend its Report."*

**“Proposals to strip citizens of their firearms are not only unconstitutional but also lack common sense,”** said Representative Nguyen. **“While the report suggests reasonable safety measures for other risks, such as drowning, the CFRT overreaches by advocating for the elimination of firearms entirely from homes with children.”**

**“Our state should focus on education and safe practices, not on extreme measures that undermine individual liberties,”** added Representative Bliss. **“We stand firm in defending the Second Amendment rights of Arizona families.”**

A copy of their full letter is attached.

*Follow the Representatives Nguyen and Bliss on X at @QuangNguyenAZ and @SelinaBliss.*

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Arizona House of Representatives  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

January 6, 2025

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Jennie Cunico  
Cabinet Executive Officer  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
150 N. 18th Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Re: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Report – Arizona Child Fatality Review Team**

Dear Ms. Cunico,

As the Chairman and Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, we write to you to express serious concerns with the sweeping statements that the Arizona Child Fatality Review Team (“CFRT”) made in its recent annual report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-3501(C)(3).<sup>1</sup>

The Report notes that out of 853 children that died in Arizona in 2023, 68 children died due to a firearm injury. (Report, page 12.) The Report then states that “since the CFRT determined that access to guns was the biggest risk factor for firearm deaths, CFRT believes that the most effective way to prevent firearm-related deaths in children **is to remove all firearms in households with children** because the presence of firearms in a household increases the risk of suicide among adolescents.” (*Id.*, emphasis added.) This blanket proposal to “remov[e] firearms from households with children” is littered throughout the Report (see, e.g., pages 18, 65, & 111).

We are appalled that the CFRT, speaking on behalf of the Arizona Department of Health Services, is actually advocating for stripping Arizonans of their Second Amendment rights in their own homes. This radical proposal is reminiscent of New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s 2023 gun control order, which attempted to prohibit carrying of firearms in public for self-defense. You may recall that Governor Grisham’s order—accurately characterized as “insanely unconstitutional” and “outrageous”—was swiftly blocked in court.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/prevention/womens-childrens-health/reports-fact-sheets/child-fatality-review-annual-reports/cfr-annual-report-2024.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See The Heritage Foundation, 5 Things to Know About New Mexico Governor’s Insanely Unconstitutional Gun Order (Sept. 25, 2023), available at <https://www.heritage.org/gun-rights/commentary/5-things-know-about-new-mexico-governors-insanely-unconstitutional-gun>

The CFRT’s “do something” approach to child-fatality legislation would not only violate the constitutional rights of millions of Arizonans; it is also irrational from a policy perspective. The CFRT’s Report notes that 31 children drowned in 2023 and that the majority of these deaths occurred in pools and hot tubs. (Report, 12.) Yet the CFRT does not recommend the elimination of pools and hot tubs. Instead, the CFRP advocates for common-sense ideas: “close, constant supervision of children when around water, increased availability and affordability of swim lessons for children, and proper pool enclosures.” (*Id.*)

Effective policy solutions—even for problems that are difficult and complex—must be designed to fully protect constitutional rights and liberties. We urge you to direct the CFRT to reconsider its unjustified attack on the Second Amendment and amend its Report.<sup>3</sup>

Respectfully,



Quang Nguyen  
Representative, LD1



Selina Bliss  
Representative, LD1

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<sup>3</sup> Although not the primary subject of this letter, we also noticed that the CFRT’s Report recommends the imposition of penalties on law-abiding gun owners who fail to report stolen firearms. (Report at 65, 118.) Last April, the Pima County Board of Supervisors enacted an ordinance imposing a \$1,000 fine on gun owners who do not report stolen firearms within 48 hours. Pima County was sued over its ordinance because it is preempted and violates state law. *See* <https://www.goldwaterinstitute.org/case/fighting-an-illegal-firearms-mandate/>. We have no intention of changing this law or supporting any legislation that would authorize such penalties.