Gun violence requires better prevention

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In the last few weeks we have seen an unprecedented level of high school students to tackle one of the most intractable political issues that affect this country: gun violence. Many people are predictably shocked at what they are able to do about it given the professional that lobby, most notably from the National Rifle Association, have over congress policy. Yet, that does not mean there is nothing we can do to improve this situation.

In a study published just a few days ago by the Interdisciplinary Group on Preventing School and Community Violence released in the United States of America, researchers at the Malaise Institute of Public Health and the Villains Prevention and Treatment, a Florida-based, nonprofit organization, published a study and prevention of violence, provided guidance and policy recommendations at the same time protecting Constitutional rights.

The report recommends the following:

1. A national requirement for all schools and businesses to have trained personnel to identify and address early signs of violence and prevent situations where gun violence is likely to occur;
2. A national requirement for all schools and businesses to develop crisis plans that are reviewed and updated at least once a year;
3. A national requirement for all schools and businesses to provide training for employees on how to recognize and respond to indicators of violence;
4. A national requirement for all schools and businesses to establish a system for reporting incidents of violence to a national database.

If Carrie Patton wins both the Democratic nomination and general election, she will undoubtedly have to deal with the issue of gun violence head-on.

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For more information about the election, visit the Madison County Clerk’s website at www.co.madison.il.us/registration/election. Opportunities to donate in the area in the coming weeks:

March 19, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Worden American Legion, 237 W. Wall St., Worden
March 19, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Wood River VFW #269, 2171 Waverly Rd., Edwardsville
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., College Memorial Public Library, 408 West Main, Collinsville
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Village Hall, 1080 Illinois 109, Godfrey
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Alton American Legion, 890 Washington Ave., Alton
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Alton Public Library, 1001 E. Broadway, Alton
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Godfrey Public Library, 703 Riverfront Dr., Godfrey
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Southwestern Illinois College, 200 College Road, Waterloo
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Alton Public Library, 1001 E. Broadway, Alton
March 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Godfrey Public Library, 703 Riverfront Dr., Godfrey

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