

POLICY PRESCRIPTION:
Securing Our Country



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- **SECURITY: Allow Legal, Private, Voluntary Increase in Gun Ownership:** The uncertainty of the pandemic has prompted an **increase in gun sales and gun ownership**. This is something to cheer, not fear. Lawful gun ownership is an important part of the American tradition of self-reliance for personal safety. Higher rates of gun ownership are associated with lower rates of crime, and **gun owners are among the most law-abiding of all American citizens**. We should welcome growth in this demographic and continue to protect this critical right. Policymakers should take note of this rise in gun ownership during a national crisis and **resist the temptation to put in place further barriers to the constitutional right to bear arms**.
- **SAFETY : Improve Immigration Controls:** Having control over who comes in and out of our country is not just a legal or economic issue, it is a **public health issue**. The potential for the spread of infectious diseases has always been a concern with immigration. Today, with COVID-19, we need fair and clear rules applied not only to all immigrants but to visitors and returning citizens. **Strong borders and better health-related controls** will help us move forward and minimize the chance of a future pandemic.
- **SECURITY: Review Trade Relationships:** Free trade can bring enormous benefits when all parties participate in good faith. We should evaluate whether our trade partners are acting in good faith. In the case of China, we are dealing with a **ruthless dictatorship** and **rising military power**, which **increasingly threatens** both America and our allies, and has already tried to leverage our trade dependence against us. This relationship deserves further scrutiny.
- **FAIRNESS: Reform International Institutions:** Americans have long known that entities like the **United Nations** and its **World Health Organization** are too often beholden to countries that are corrupt, do not respect human rights, and fail in terms of transparency and positive engagement with the world. The United States has a responsibility to seek reform where it is possible, and create decent and reliable alternative coalitions where it is not.