Gun owner licenses usually are issued or renewed only after the applicant has undergone a background check, completed a gun safety training course, and passed tests on how to safely load, fire and store a gun. Licensing laws are a simple, yet effective way to ensure guns are purchased and used by responsible Americans. Illinois has such a law, but the federal government — and many states — do not. Contact your representative about requiring licenses for purchasing of all arms.

There are an estimated 10 billion bullets sold in the U.S. every year. That's 31 bullets for every man, woman and child. The Chicago Sun-Times is arming people with knowledge, education and social ammunition to fight gun violence. 31 bullets to counter the negative effects of the actual bullets.