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Health newsfeed for Thursday, January 31, 2013

HEADLINE: SECOND AMENDMENT

ANCHOR LEAD: WHAT DOES THE SECOND AMENDMENT REALLY MEAN WHEN IT COMES TO REGULATING GUNS? ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

NRA members and others often cite the second constitutional amendment as protecting our rights as citizens to bear arms, and use it to bolster their arguments against any gun regulation. Yet as statistics at the recent Gun Summit at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health eloquently illustrate, we cannot avoid regulation in attempting to reduce the staggering annual toll of gun deaths. Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York comments.

BLOOMBERG: This is not a constitutional question, it's a question of political courage. The Supreme Court, the one that defines what the Constitution means and says, has ruled that reasonable regulations are consistent with the second amendment. So when the gun lobby raises the second amendment, it's nothing but a red herring. It's time for second amendment defenders in Congress to call them on it. :25

About 31,000 people die each year in the United States from gunshots. At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.