



Doctors for
Responsible
Gun
Ownership

- 4) If your doctor persists in asking intrusive questions about guns in your home, you can also file a complaint specifically against him or her with your health plan. Such complaints are taken seriously, and the doctor will be called to account for it. Having one or more complaints about ethical boundary violations on her record will make her think twice about doing it again.
- 5) Internet consumer rating sites have created another way doctors can be publicly rated on the basis of service, attitude, and behavior. Some commonly used rating sites are Yelp.com, Healthgrades.com, Vitals.com, and RateMDs.
- 6) Increasingly, doctors' pay from Medicare and insurance companies is tied to how they score on patient satisfaction surveys. These are often sent randomly to patients, but you can request one to fill out. You can have a powerful impact on a doctor's conduct by reporting the doctor's unethical questioning about your guns.
- 7) If the doctor's conduct is especially offensive, you have the right to submit a complaint to the doctor's licensing board. This is an agency in your state government that holds the ultimate power of licensure over your doctor. A quick internet search for "medical board" in your state should take you to the official form for filing a complaint. This is a step that should not be taken lightly.

Remember when writing your complaint to be polite. Explain why you find the doctor's or health plan's behavior unacceptable. Include the powerful points we've discussed:

- Your doctor is professionally unqualified to give expert advice on firearms
- Your right to own firearms is a civil right that is none of your doctor's business
- A doctor misusing his or her authority and trust to push a political agenda of gun control is an ethical *boundary violation*. Such unprofessional conduct is not acceptable.

Your right to own a firearm is enshrined in the Constitution. Don't let any doctor or health plan intimidate you into giving up your civil rights.