

Our View: Weapons for mass murder more popular than ever

Anthony Kuipers/Moscow-Pullman Daily News

The U.S. Senate failed to act on a series of gun control measures this week - including bills to limit guns sold at gun shows and to those on the terror watch list - but few were surprised.

Even the Republican-sponsored measures failed, meaning we are back to square one on the gun control debate, just about two weeks removed from the deadliest mass shooting in this country's modern history.

Most of the bills were reasonable, and didn't require drastic attempts to rip guns away from the hands of citizens - as many Americans seem to fear.

One required background checks at gun shows. Another would have barred gun sales to those on the terror watch list because, you know, we probably shouldn't let potential terrorists arm themselves.

Even the news that the Orlando gunman pledged allegiance to the Islamic State couldn't help that bill get through.

We've yet to make progress on assault weapons with high capacity magazines. Those are the ones designed specifically to effectively kill large numbers of human beings. They are not tools for hunting. They're tools for murdering.

The Washington Post reported on a Mother Jones database showing that of the eight high-profile mass shootings since last July, assault-style weapons were used in seven.

Yet lawmakers refuse to try anything that will curb this trend. If murderers have a preferred tool of choice - a highly effective tool at that - wouldn't it make sense to put some restrictions on that tool?

Heck, a Florida congressional candidate even began a contest on Facebook to give away an AR-15, the assault weapon similar to the one used in the Orlando shooting.

Insensitive? Sure. But he knows his constituents. After all, gun sales continue to increase and AR-15s are as popular as ever.

We're moving in the wrong direction, and our head-scratching response to these terrible tragedies will only empower more terrorists to pick up their guns and wreak havoc in another American city.