

## **Rouzer Turns a Deaf Ear to School Shootings**

*Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 12.16.21*

Congressman David Rouzer's newsletter in the [December 2 Beacon](#) was shocking to read as I watched in horror the news of yet another school shooting.

Just two days earlier, Madisyn Baldwin, 17, Justin Shilling, 17, Tate Myre, 16, and Hana St. Juliana, 14, were [gunned down](#) by a classmate who "[methodically and deliberately](#)" murdered them inside their school in Oxford, Michigan. Instead of offering solutions to school shootings, Rouzer launched a heartless and tone-deaf attack on President Biden's Build Back Better Plan, which funds Community-based Violence Intervention ([CVI](#)) [programs](#) that help save students' lives.

Americans were appalled to learn what happened after [the shooter's parents were summoned to school](#) when a teacher saw their son draw pictures of a shooting victim, with the words "blood everywhere", and a laughing emoji. They didn't tell the school they had bought him a semi-automatic handgun four days earlier, or ask their son if he had it with him. They refused to take him home, or get him counseling. With nowhere to send the boy, administrators returned him to class. A few hours later, he opened fire.

Rouzer falsely claimed that CVI "could be used to deny Second Amendment rights." In fact, CVI programs fund [local police efforts](#) across the country to build better relationships between police and the communities they serve to get troubled students, like Oxford's shooter, the [help they need](#). Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Oakland, and Stockton, California, have invested in CVI initiatives and seen shooting injuries decline [more than 30 percent](#).

Rouzer's willingness to defund [local police outreach programs](#) that President Biden funds in his Build Back Better Plan is dangerous. His effort to score cheap political points by stoking trumped-up fears of gun control is beyond tone-deaf. It's obscene.

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