

Pause to Protect

Transcript: U.S. Army Directorate of Prevention, Resilience and Readiness Outreach Webinar

February 12, 2025

Presenter:

Dr. Emmy Betz, MD, MPH, Professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine

Lyteria Walker: [00:04](#)

Welcome to the Directorate of Prevention, Resilience, and Readiness Outreach webinar for February. At this time, all participants are in listen-only mode. However, you may ask questions at any time by placing them in the Q&A box. There will be several opportunities for questions throughout the webinar, and we should have some time at the very end as well. Today's webinar has been approved for one hour of live continuing education units. Participants must obtain CEU certification through their local commanders by downloading the webinar presentation slides as attendance verification. The slides will be posted in the chat box at the end of the webinar and emailed to registered participants as well this evening. Please note that the views of DPRR Outreach Webinar presenters are their very own and are not endorsed by the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense.

Lyteria Walker: [01:05](#)

This month, our guest is Dr. Emmy Betz. Dr. Emmy Betz, MD, MPH is an emergency physician and nationally recognized leader in firearm injury prevention and suicide prevention. She is currently a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where she is the founding director of the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative. She oversees a multi-million-dollar research portfolio of complex, community engaged, mixed methods studies funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense. Dr. Betz has been invited to work with numerous organizations spanning the civilian and veteran spectrum. Examples include the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American Bar Association, multiple VA work groups, the Department of Defense Suicide Prevention Office, and White House Events and initiatives under the Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations. In 2023, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Betz, ma'am, thank you so much for joining us today. Please take it away.

Dr. Emmy Betz:	<u>02:25</u>	Wonderful. Thank you so much for having me. I'm so grateful for this opportunity. It's wonderful to see people from really all over the world here today.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	<u>03:18</u>	I do want to acknowledge that Pause to Protect is funded by the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, and we're very grateful for their support. I'm going to talk briefly about some additional work that is funded by the Face the Fight Foundation. Everything I'm going to talk about today is my own views, not the official views of the United States government, the DoD, or any of my employers. I have no conflicts of interest: everything I'm going to talk about today is something that we're thrilled to be working on, but we don't make any commercial profit from it. I hope this is a program you will be excited to use and talk with us about how we might roll it out. This is a nonprofit government-supported program that we hope can reach people.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	<u>04:08</u>	Here's what I'm hoping to cover in the next 45 minutes. I want to do a little bit of background to get us all on the same page of why we really built this program, then I will describe what the program is, and then I'll present some thoughts about what will happen in the upcoming months and years. Everybody who is on this call today knows that suicide is a huge problem in not just the Military, but also in civilian populations in the United States and elsewhere. We recognize that that suicide attempts, mental health stressors, and suicide deaths among Service Members and among their Families threaten Force Readiness and remain a top priority of Military leadership. We also know that the majority of suicides are completed by firearms.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	<u>05:03</u>	The reason that we need to talk about firearms is threefold. The first is that we know many suicides occur within only minutes from decision to action. That's not to say suicides happen out of the blue, but we know that many people may have prolonged periods of stress or risk factors building up. That actual period of heightened risk is pretty brief. The decision to attempt suicide can occur just minutes before the actual attempt happens. We know that from research, yet we also know that people get better. There is hope that if we can get someone through that crisis, whether it's social stressors, a divorce, substance abuse, or mental health that needs treatment, we know that of all people who survive a suicide attempt only 10% later die by suicide.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	<u>05:57</u>	The vast majority don't. It's really important that we do what we can to get people through those crises, but we know that guns are lethal: that's what they are supposed to be. I'm not

here to demonize firearm ownership in any way. All we're talking about today is how we work with people in supportive and respectful ways that acknowledge the many people who want to own firearms in their personal life but also acknowledge that firearms are uniquely lethal. In the period of a suicide crisis, if someone uses a firearm for an attempt they will likely die. In the work I've been doing for decades, I've seen only one firearm suicide attempt ever in the ER because usually they don't make it to us.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [06:41](#)

The one that I did see unfortunately passed away in the department. We really want to help people stay safe during a period of risk so that they can get the help that they need. In that sense it's very much like having a designated driver. It's not about permanently taking away someone's license or confiscating their car forever, it's about making sure they're in a safe environment while they're getting the help they need or getting back to their normal high functioning state and thinking clearly again. People will sometimes say, "Well, why are you only picking on firearms? Again?" It's because it is the most lethal method, and the leading method used in suicide. We know that if someone doesn't have access to a gun, even if they substitute another method of suicide like medication, it's far more likely that they will survive.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [07:29](#)

Over the past 10 to 15 years, there has been a growth of so-called Gun Shot Projects (GSPs), which are about recognizing the potential to engage civilian businesses in providing information and outreach to customers about suicide prevention. We recognize that doctors, public health professionals, and other officials aren't always the best messengers for some of this. How do we reach people in the places where they feel safe with people that they trust? We need to normalize some of this content so that people start to think about suicide risk, so that they look out for friends, for relatives, or even themselves. So programs like GSP started in New Hampshire and then spread to many states as well, like Safer Homes and Suicide Aware in Washington. You can see an example from the US Navy here, as well as Walk the Talk America, which is a large national organization focused on mental health in the firearms community. These organizations have really tried to normalize this topic among firearm owners, emphasizing that it's not necessarily the gun that is the problem. None of this is about confiscating weapons; it's about helping people understand the potential risks and warning signs for suicide so they can make decisions about how to be safer.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [08:56](#) As another recent development, VetStore was a pilot project that some of my colleagues ran. This was with VA funding, and not surprisingly, was focused on veterans, and was really taking the GSP to the next step, which was pushing firearm businesses to supporting a particular population in the secure storage of firearms, both at home or temporarily at a gun store if someone wanted to get a firearm out of the house. During a period of risk one option is to lock up the gun securely, and another option would be to temporarily store it with a licensed firearm dealer if that dealer is willing to do so.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [09:40](#) Another event that had led to the development of Pause to Protect was a national summit that we've now hosted three times here at the University of Colorado focused on bringing together top leadership researchers and front line providers to talk about firearm suicide prevention in the Military. This is the white paper that came out of the first one. Item number 10 was developing creative partnerships, recognizing that those within the military have high task loads already. There's a lot of really wonderful work happening through the prevention that you all do. There are also a lot of civilian organizations, civilian businesses, and academic institutions who would love to support that work. How can we think about working together to support our Service Members and their Families? Next I'm going to show a couple of videos during this presentation, in part because I want you to know that these are available on our website.

Video: [11:12](#) We know that when there's a firearm in the home, the risk of suicide goes up by about threefold, so it's three times higher. That's not because the presence of a gun makes someone decide that they want to die by suicide or even contemplate suicide. It's because in that at-risk moment, if someone is able to reach for a gun, they're much more likely to die. The same is true if there's a domestic violence circumstance or if there's a kid who has access to an unsecured gun. Firearms are intended to be lethal, and so when they're handled improperly or by someone who's in crisis, the risk of death is much higher. And we know in all of those circumstances that secure storage can prevent injury and death. That's the message we're really trying to get out to customers and to the firearm owning community that secure storage of personal weapons at home, meaning preventing unauthorized access, can help protect the Family and protect the community because it can prevent injury and death when someone is not thinking clearly.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [12:19](#) That video and the others I'm going to show are available on our website. We wanted to have some resources that are really

easy to share and that make it crystal clear what we're trying to do. One thing you heard there, which I will come back to, is that in Pause to Protect we wanted to take the focus out bigger. As important as the messaging about suicide is, we know that sometimes people don't hear it because they don't think that it could happen to them. We wanted to really take this step to encourage secure storage for multiple reasons, including prevention of theft, or preventing little kids from getting into firearms, because we recognize that that may help prevent some suicides particularly among others in the home who are not the authorized user.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [13:20](#)

Pause to Protect is a new way to support our Military communities. It is a voluntary program that works with firearm businesses, and then those businesses work with firearm owners. The goal is to help those firearm owners take easy steps around secure storage of personal weapons to help prevent accidents, theft, suicide, and other violence. You'll see on the website that the messaging is not Military specific because we wanted this to apply to other populations as well. The program itself though, and the work that we are doing, is particularly focused on civilian gun shops surrounding installations. We provide education, and I'm going to go through some of that. We have a lot of resources for those businesses, including materials that they can share with customers and materials for the businesses themselves.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [14:19](#)

We also have ongoing technical assistance. We have virtual office hours with our incredible outreach coordinators to really help walk businesses through exactly how to do this. What we'd heard from a lot of businesses was that they wanted to get involved, but they didn't really know how to do it. We wanted to be that link to really help them get involved. I'm now going to show a second video that highlights Jacqueline Clark, our Lead Outreach Coordinator. She works with us on Pause to Protect, but she also is a co-owner of a large firearm retailer here in the Colorado area.

Jacqueline Clar...: [15:10](#)

I opened my store about nine years ago. I still love coming to work every day, but I don't just work here. I'm part of this community and it's become part of me. It can be hard to talk about, but most of us have our share of stories about firearm misuse, from theft to injuries to even suicide loss. To know that my business can play a role to help protect our firearms and our community, it wasn't a question of why, but how the resources from Pause to Protect make it easy for me and my staff to engage with firearm owners about the importance and options for secure storage. Members of our community have different

reasons and preferences for storage. Someone's Family might be growing or maybe a Service Member or Veteran is struggling, but most of us agree that as responsible firearm owners we should prevent unauthorized access. Our businesses and the people that are part of them—associates, instructors, gunsmiths—can literally be the difference between life and death. Not a lot of small businesses can say that our communities support us every day. Why wouldn't we take this step to help protect them?

Dr. Emmy Betz: [16:28](#)

I want to highlight a few things from that video. A lot of the emphasis is that customers can pick the secure storage options that work for them. We recognize that Families want different things. Sometimes it's storage in the home, sometimes it's storage out of home. It's kind of a “choose your own adventure.” Similarly, for businesses that participate, we offer a range of ways for them to get involved so that they can pick the thing that's right for their business.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [17:14](#)

Pause to Protect is different from the GSPs that previously had been developed or that are still in existence. Like those, we do provide education for both the customers and the shops, but we've expanded the focus beyond suicide. We felt like that might appeal both to some shops as well as to some customers to get involved even if they thought suicide was never a possibility in their home. We also try to link customers with locations that offer storage, and I'm going to show you how we do that. We do provide financial and technical support to a limited number of key partners. We're really focused on military communities.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [18:04](#)

All of these materials are available for download on the website. Some of these are simple brochures that a shop might have on the counter or a point of sale. They could include them in the bag with an item and so forth. You can see that in-home secure storage options help walk people through some of the different types of options for locking firearms at home. This one in the middle is a checklist that we encourage firearm owners to go through regularly to think about where firearms and ammunition are stored, who might have access to them,

Dr. Emmy Betz: [18:54](#)

It's also helpful to note if someone in the home is at risk, let's say the teenager's going through a rough patch at school. Maybe it's time to reconsider and check if that teen has access to mom or dad's firearm. This is something a customer could use. It's not anything we collect; it's not anything the shop collects, but it's the type of educational material that a shop could give to customers. We also provide resources for

businesses. As I mentioned, we want businesses to get involved in the way that they feel good about it and what they feel like they can do.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [19:41](#)

Some firearm businesses are really small mom-and-pop shops. They might be interested in putting out some brochures or maybe having a night at the range where they talk about some of these things. They don't have a lot of capacity to do other sorts of events. Other shops like Jacqueline Clark's are much bigger. They actually have on-site storage that they offer for to people with a storage fee and so forth. We recognize that businesses vary in what they're interested and willing to do. Some of these materials are for a shop that wants to offer storage and how they might do it.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [20:41](#)

On the website here you can see this map where you can zoom in and look at your own location. This is to link customers with locations that might offer temporary voluntary firearm storage. I want to acknowledge there may be locations that exist that are not on this map because this is a map that was generated by calling every listed Federal Firearms Licensee business in the US. If they didn't pick up, or if on that day they said they don't offer storage, they wouldn't have been listed on this map. I certainly encourage you to also cross-check with any businesses in your own area. The location shown on this map have said they're willing to consider storage, but that doesn't mean they definitely do it. We always encourage people to call ahead and find out what the specific policies or costs might be.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [21:36](#)

What you can see is that there's a few pins that are yellow. Those are our Pause to Protect sites, which I'm going to talk about. Those are the sites specifically working with us in this program that receive additional financial incentives and technical assistance. The other sites that are on here are places that certainly could use all of our materials if they wanted to. If you are located near any of them, I would encourage you to call them up and see what their options are and if they're interested in in partnering somehow.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [22:10](#)

With the funding from the Suicide Prevention Office, we were able to support four firearm businesses surrounding five different military installations, which we'll talk about in a moment. That's a stipend basically to them that they can choose to use how they want. If they're interested in providing storage, they could use that money to invest in on-site storage lockers or gunsmithing programs. They could also choose to use that funding to buy locking devices that they then provide for

free or at reduced cost for Service Members, or they could purchase additional educational materials.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [23:07](#)

We really want to emphasize that stores can choose the thing that works best for them. Our consultants work with shops to help them figure out what they think makes sense. These are the initial installations that we are working with: JBLM in Washington, Camp Lejeune, the Newport News Naval Area in Virginia, Minot Air Force Base, and then Buckley Space Force Base here in Colorado. Those are all up and running.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [23:59](#)

We are getting ready to launch near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, which we're really thrilled about. This year we're waiting for the additional finalization of subcontracts. We'll be at Camp Pendleton in California; at Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida; Fort Warren, Georgia; and San Antonio. One of the things I would love to hear from you is if you are at an installation that you think would like to partner. We can't do every single one. We also are focused on installations in the United States right now as opposed to overseas because of firearm regulations and so forth. We are really excited to hear how people might be interested.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [24:52](#)

With each of these, we have made contact with key personnel on the base to make them aware, but we're not asking them to do anything other than publicize the program to their community as they see fit. Otherwise, there's no specific reason for the installation because we recognize that you're really busy. This we see as a way of bringing civilian resources, passion, and excitement to that installation. We know that many Service Members who own firearms might go off-base to go to ranges or to buy additional items.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [26:01](#)

These are our phenomenal Outreach Coordinators who really do all of the groundwork to build up these relationships. They all bring strong firearms background to the work. Jacqueline Clark is currently still the co-owner of a large shooting retail center here in Colorado that is not a Pause to Protect partner because of obvious conflicts but has been deeply embedded in this work from the beginning. I've been really proud to work with her over the past decade on projects like this. Jaron Clark also brings a strong firearms background and so does Megan Johnson, who's retired from the Marines. They do all of our initial outreach and conversations with the shops, which is really important because it helps build up trust in those initial conversations and makes it clear from the get-go that this program is not about forcing anyone to do anything or in any way encouraging the confiscation of any weapons.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [27:03](#)

Here's our process. First we look at a map around an installation to identify potential shops, and then the outreach coordinators make a ton of phone calls to establish that initial contact. Once we've got a list of potentially people who are interested, they fly to that location to meet in person with the different shops as well as with Base personnel. They talk about what the program is and whether the individual shops would be interested in participating. There's some paperwork so that they can get the money. We send them their stipends and then we have ongoing technical assistance calls with them in the way that they want so that we can help them really get their program up and running.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [28:04](#)

As I mentioned, we really wanted to take this more upstream from just suicide prevention because we know many people may not think that their Family members are at risk of suicide. It's like the designated driver model: if your friend or if you are at acute risk of suicide, you want to make sure that firearms are not accessible temporarily. It's like putting your seat belt on every time you get in a car because you don't know what that day is going to bring. That's the model we're really pushing in this program, to make sure that firearms at home are always stored securely, locked, and inaccessible to unauthorized users.

Video: [29:28](#)

The fact is, if we can promote secure storage and have people securely store their guns when they're not being used, it does create a safer community for everyone. It's really important that this discussion about safe gun storage gets elevated because the issues at hand are becoming more significant over time. Secure storage is the most important part of firearms ownership because it is the last line of defense when it comes to unauthorized access. When you think of unauthorized access, you think of people who should not have access to that firearm, period. A lot of people hesitate to secure their firearms because they don't believe that they can access their firearm in a time of need very quickly. That's just not the case. I got into this business to save lives, to provide information and education and to enrich lives the best way that I can. So for me, it's all about making sure we secure firearms so we're not causing a negative impact on good people and human lives around us. The biggest role that gun stores can play is promoting that they actually have safe storage programs for regular citizens. We are a resource center. We're not just someone who wants your money. We're here to actually enhance and better your life. I know it sounds a little corny, but if you have the people that you look at saying or look up to that you respect in the space saying that safe storage is just as important as owning it in the first place. We want everyone to know all the options and make

the right decision for their Family. I don't want to watch the news and think that because someone didn't buy a \$40, \$50, or \$60 safe, then now this Family is going to go through 40, 50, or 60 years of trauma. The more that we contribute to the positive message of secure storage, and we get gun owners to act on that, the better it is for the community as a whole.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [32:31](#)

We were really thrilled and grateful that all of those leaders put the time into that video. I want to also point out that although Pause to Protect made the video they're really just talking about secure storage. They're not specifically endorsing this program versus another. Hopefully, it is a useful video generally for talking about why Secure Storage matters and why it's not just coming from the people in the prevention space. This is something that is about responsible firearm ownership and is endorsed by leaders within the firearms community. Looking forward, we acknowledge that Secure Storage matters, we also are really interested in what devices will people actually use, and specifically, how we should be spending funds to give people different devices.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [32:24](#)

Where is that money best used? So many programs for years have given out cable locks. Probably many of you give out cable locks. We give out cable locks too. We also know that that may not always be the preferred device. There's a range, so certainly larger safes for long guns or for people with large collections. We know many people prefer quick access lock boxes like the ones shown there in the middle that store a loaded firearm but can also be quickly opened for personal defense. We as researchers are really interested in the choices that people might make around this. We did one large national survey around asking firearm owners what they might want for if they could get something for free.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [34:20](#)

People don't really want cable locks. I do think that there's a value to giving them out, particularly as a stopgap measure, but I also think it helps us to be more nuanced in how we approach this. Pause to Protect, as I mentioned, involves this financial investment in businesses to encourage them to offer storage or potentially distribute lower-cost locking devices. We've been interested in whether or not specific discounts or targeted discounts help on top of that. This is a research project that's funded by Face the Fight that's really testing out some different options with in-store marketing focused on veterans.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [35:24](#)

This is still an open question. If you have a set amount of money to buy locking devices, for example, for your installation to handout, what should you buy? I can't actually tell you that yet,

but I would encourage when possible that it involves some options for people to choose. Many of you hopefully have been wondering how you might become involved. If you are near one of those participating bases that I mentioned, check out the yellow businesses, the Pause to Protect partners. Give them a call and talk to them. Advertise this program to your Military community and share those customer materials with your community. You also can certainly contact us if you run into any issues or if you have questions or you want additional information. We've tried to keep the ask light on the installations themselves. If you are not near a participating base, please contact us, particularly if you think that your community might be interested. In the meantime, I also encourage you to just pick up the phone or stop by a local firearm business and talk to them and see if they're at least open to posting materials or having customer handouts. We certainly want to be a resource to encourage people to build on this creatively.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [37:01](#)

Not all of this has to be run centrally. If there's a business right outside your gates It's worth just stopping in to talk to them. My guess is that they will be very interested in doing what they can to support the Service Member community. You are also welcome to share those customer materials directly with Service Members and Families in your community. One last video, and then I'm going to open it up for questions. This is, again, for if you were talking to a local business and you wanted to explain to them what it is that they would do with the program.

Speaker 13: [37:55](#)

Participating in the Pause to Protect program is extremely flexible and very easy. We encourage you to learn about our proposed solutions and choose what best fits your business model as a retailer. We also encourage you to access our program materials on the Pause to Protect website and check out our frequently asked questions where you'll see not only printed materials, but also videos like this one. Lastly, we encourage you to connect with other firearm retailers around the country who have implemented the Pause to Protect Program on our virtual monthly meetings. During these sessions, you can receive support not only from your peers, but also receive world-class concierge support from our firearm industry community outreach coordinators

Dr. Emmy Betz: [38:42](#)

Shops who are not official partners are still able to come to these technical assistance times. We'd be happy to talk with them. We do not collect any customer data. This is an anonymous program, but we are interested in how the program

is being rolled out and sustained as well as thinking into the years ahead.

- Lyteria Walker: [39:58](#) Dr. Betz, thank you so much for that presentation. We will now take a few questions from the audience. If you would like to ask a question, please type your question in the Q&A box, and we will read your questions aloud.
- Dr. Emmy Betz: [40:53](#) Is Pause to Protect endorsed by the NRA? If not, is there endorsement being pursued?
- Dr. Emmy Betz: [40:58](#) Great question. We have not directly worked with NRA yet. Interestingly, in the space of suicide prevention, the National Shooting Sports Foundation has had more of a leading role in the suicide space than the NRA. We have not reached out to them specifically about Pause to Protect, but in the past they were generally less interested in publicly endorsing some of these types of programs related to secure storage. We certainly will continue to pursue those opportunities for endorsement and broad engagement.
- Dr. Emmy Betz: [41:53](#) Have you conducted research on purpose-driven safe storage methods?
- Dr. Emmy Betz: [42:13](#) This is a really interesting area. It means to do something like having photos of family, sticky notes from loved ones, a picture of your buddies on the lockbox that says, "Call us before you do something." Our group in particular has not done research on that. There's no reason to why those methods wouldn't hurt. Whether they are better than general gun locks, it's hard to say. I do think the lock is still important. What those sticky notes and photos gets to is the firearm owner themselves and how do we support them. It's an area where we need a lot more work. We haven't thought about if there's a way to include some of that in this space, but it's a really interesting question.
- Dr. Emmy Betz: [43:24](#) There are a couple of questions here about Reserve and Guard. Pause to Protect is obviously focused on installations, but since we are working with civilian businesses we don't restrict them. We don't restrict the businesses to only do education for people who are Active Duty Service Members. We leave it up to them to serve their community. If there are Reserve or Guard individuals in those geographic areas, they absolutely could be using them. The challenge of course is people are geographically more spread in terms of where they live.

Dr. Emmy Betz:	44:24	There's a parallel effort called Project Safeguard that's peer-to-peer education about secure firearm storage that is being rolled out in the Guard. Keep an eye out for that. If you have other ideas about how Pause to Protect could work with Guard or Reserve, please contact us. We are really interested and open to all potential opportunities.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	44:54	Are we evaluating and measuring the impact Pause to Protect has had?
Dr. Emmy Betz:	45:03	Yes, but we also recognize that we likely won't see an effect, for example, on suicide rates because it's very difficult from a scientific perspective to show that something reduces suicide rates because suicide ultimately is a rare outcome. We also didn't want to put a heavy data burden on the participating sites. We are doing some surveys as well as focused interviews with the businesses to understand what's happening in this iteration. We are not collecting any customer data, because that is a highly contentious thing. We do expect to have some evaluation data come out.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	46:28	Do we work in conjunction with the State Governor's Challenge initiative for Safe Storage?
Dr. Emmy Betz:	46:36	To date, we have not done as much as we probably should. We will reach out to them. Some of our individuals here in Colorado do work with the governor's challenges, but up until now that's been a separate program.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	46:55	What are you learning about effective messaging that resonates with military members?
Dr. Emmy Betz:	47:00	We know with Military Members as well as with firearm owners in general that a few key things work. Emphasizing voluntary options and emphasizing positive messages are the most important. There are positive messages around responsibility and highlighting that secure storage is part of responsible gun ownership. Most people are responsible owners. This is just one more way to think about being a responsible owner by making sure that nobody can steal your gun or commit crimes with your gun. Preventing suicide in your household is another component of that.
Dr. Emmy Betz:	48:40	Sometimes people hear "safe storage" and they really worry that it's some kind of hidden anti-firearm agenda. That's absolutely not what our program is about. You can see on the website there are some things about how our only agenda is

preventing deaths. Like we really try to spell that out very clearly. We do still run into some businesses or individuals who think we have a hidden agenda.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [49:30](#) We do not do any advocacy, but everybody on this call probably understands how easy it can be to view things through your own lens or hear only what you want to hear. What we generally try to do is continue to emphasize that that's not what we're about. This is all voluntary.

Dr. Emmy Betz: [50:12](#) Just listening can be helpful, trying to really understand what it is that they are concerned about. For example, we don't collect customer data. We may ask how many guns have been stored for people over the past month, but we're not asking for the names of people who've done it to emphasize that trust part of the program.

Lytaria Walker: [54:04](#) We will conclude this morning's webinar. I do want to extend a very gracious thank you to Dr. Emmy Betz for joining us today. Thank you listeners for joining today's webinar as well. Once the webinar concludes, you will be prompted to complete a survey. We appreciate your feedback as this helps us to improve upon future webinars. If you'd like to receive invitations for DPRR webinars and receive the latest news and information from the Directorate of Prevention, Resilience, and Readiness, please go to DPRR's website at armyresilience.army.mil and sign up for notifications there. Thank you so much for joining us today and have a wonderful rest of your day. We'll talk again soon.